FLYING SAUCER

REVIEW

MAY-JUNE 1962

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Edited by
Waveney Girvan

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol. 8 No. 3 **MAY-JUNE 1962**

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Flying Saucer Review

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Another denial

WHEN the United States Air Force issues one of its periodic statements that flying saucers do not exist, as it did last February, the rest of the world, already conditioned to that belief, accepts the denial at its face value. The English newspapers do not bother to question the verdict or to read between the lines. Flying saucers are misinterpreted balloons or showers of meteors or anything except inter-planetary machines: that is what the public is told; that is what, for the most part, it wants to believe. The rest of the world includes Russia, but with a slight difference. There, too, the flying saucers don't exist, but they don't exist because they are figments of the imagination induced by unscrupulous Americans. This sounds, and is, a bit of a muddle, but, nevertheless, saucers do not exist. What you thought you saw, you didn't—wherever it was you didn't see it.

The newspapers like to seize on these denials and their readers are left with the impression that the final word has been spoken. All attempts by a minority to put the contrary view are frustrated. In the recent release the familiar escape hatch is invoked—in 1961, for instance, 2.09 per cent.* of all that year's sightings (who chooses the total?) remain unexplained. A letter to the papers pointing out that it is this minority of sightings which forms the basis of our study is unlikely to appear in print.

It is important to discover why the American government, or any other government for that matter, should bother to deny the existence of that which can be proved by those who have a knowledge of the subject. It is obvious that the governments of this world must know the truth and therefore they must have a reason for denying it, or, rather, for giving the impression of denying it. Many reasons have been put forward. Is it fear of panic? It could be: Mr. Wildman, of Luton, was badly shaken last February after seeing a saucer hovering above his car. If the reality of UFOs were to be confirmed by a government department, many an old lady might be frightened to go to the post after dark. Is it because the saucers are known to possess a power source beyond our present dreams and is each country trying to acquire knowledge which it wants to deny to its potential enemy? Well, secrecy has been imposed by governments upon their peoples from far less complicated motives. Is it fear of ridicule? Governments, it must be admitted, are as sensitive to ridicule as the next man. Is it stupidity? Govern-

* Those interested in statistics as a method of prevarication will like to know that in 1961 there were 483 sightings, according to the U.S. Air Force. 2.09 per cent. of this figure works out at ten. Any one of these ten could prove the reality of a flying saucer.

ments have been known to say and to do the most foolish things. There could be some doltish American official who thinks that the saucers are Russian: he could have an inept Russian counterpart who is convinced that they are American. On the other hand, it could be a combination of all the reasons we have suggested.

A much more profitable exercise is to ask why the U.S. Air Force should go on repeating its denials. Why do they have to deny something every three or four years? In answer to this question, we would say that the United States Government is under pressure and it can be coming from only two sources. The sightings over America may have become so frequent that some form of government response could no longer be avoided. Or it may have been that Major Keyhoe and his National Investigations Committee of Washington have applied the pressure and have threatened open Congressional hearings on the subject. If it was pressure from NICAP then we must once more deplore its tactics. To provoke such a statement from such a source is to invite a rebuff. However much we may admire David, it is Goliath who has won this particular round. Flying saucers are a global problem and what the American Air Force thinks (or does not think) is not necessarily final. The trouble is that it appears to be final to the majority of the people in the free world. Flying saucers have been seen elsewhere than in the United States of America. Why then invite a purely American denial? Why should Mr. Wildman, for instance, who recently saw a flying saucer in England, look to the American Government for an explanation? The U.S. Air Force release, incidentally, had been made the day before the sighting, but Mr. Wildman's saucer apparently hadn't read it. What on earth have Mars or Venus or the distant stars to do with Washington alone?

Fear, greed, apathy and ignorance could well account for a government's reluctance to speak openly on the most important topic of our time, but the weakness of conceit is probably the overriding reason. How could a department of one solitary government admit that its territory was being overflown at will and with impunity? How can one expect the military to concede that the country is defenceless against an alien and a superior technology? And while America and Russia live in mutual fear, they will both hesitate to introduce a complicating factor which might produce an incalculable reaction. It is better by far, the argument may run, to keep silent for as long as possible. Whether this policy is wise or not is another matter: a course of action imposed by fear is often unwise and wisdom and government seldom march together.

The moral is quite clear. Those who believe in an unfashionable truth must look to themselves for salvation. No government will help us until we have prepared the ground. There is no short cut: if the majority is to learn it is the minority that will have to do the teaching.

PHOTOGRAPHS

We often receive requests for photographs and even films of flying saucers. Apart from the collection which we advertise in these columns, the copyright of most of the photographs which have appeared in the *Flying Saucer Review* do not belong to us and positives have been lent to us merely for the purpose of reproduction and for illustration of an accompanying article. We regret, therefore, that very often we are unable to help our readers beyond referring them to the owner of a particular photograph. We hope it will be realised that we have no photographic library and, in any case, we are unable to supply negatives which are invariably retained by the owners of the copyrights.

The Campinas Sighting

by Professor Charles A. Maney

The Campinas sighting and its residual tin has for several years led to controversy among students of the flying saucer mystery. In our November-December, 1960, issue, for instance, Dr. Rolf Weber asked why nothing further had been heard of the metal or its analysis in spite of the fact that research might have produced the most convincing proof of all the saucer incidents. Professor Maney has now written the most authoritative summary of this mystery yet to appear. Professor Maney (of Defiance College, Akron, Ohio, U.S.A.) is co-author of the recently published book, *The Challenge of the Unidentified Flying Objects*, **which was reviewed in our previous issue.**

THE confusion associated with early accounts of the Campinas, Brazil, sighting of December 13, 1954, is due in large measure to the faulty character of news sources of the incidents from which the UFO investigators first secured their information. The writer himself, who has depended upon these first news reports for his previous interpretation of aspects of this sighting, finds it necessary to admit that as a result of having since secured more accurate and complete information on the details, he must to some extent modify his original stand. While it is true that some of the statements, in particular those pertaining to the analyses of the metal samples supposedly associated with the sighting have need for correction, let it be said, however, that the more complete and accurate later information received about the incident as a whole serves only more firmly to establish its reality.

The writer is especially indebted to three estimable and sincere UFO investigators from Brazil, Dr. Olavo Fontes, Mr. Escobar Faria and Mr. Auriphebo B. Simoes, and Mr. Alexander Mebane, chemist and official of Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York City, a dedicated scientist of sound judgment, for his sources of information.

Dr. Olavo Fontes has supplied the writer with the most recent account of details of this incident, which account reflects the splendid talent for UFO research possessed by this man of scientific background. In generous manner, Dr. Fontes has given the writer permission to use material quoted below.

I first quote from Dr. Fontes's two testimonies in regard to the sighting secured at the time of the incident, from two persons of excellent reputation, Professor Benedito G. Nascimento (retired), the neighbour and friend of the lady who saw the phenomenon, and Mr. Luso Ventura, chief editor of the newspaper *Correio Popular*.

On December 23, 1954, he (Professor Nascimento) was interviewed personally by a reporter from the newspaper *O Globo*, who was in the city to make a full investigation of the incident. He made the following report (transcribed verbatim):

"Ten days ago (on December 13, 1954), when several flying saucers were sighted over the city, I was called by an old friend, a lady, who invited me to go at once to her home to see an amazing thing. After arriving at the place, she told me that she was in her backyard when she spotted the approach of three flying saucers, crossing the skies. Then one of the craft, round-shaped, dull-grey in colour and resembling two plates turned upside down and put together, dived suddenly over her house; one of the plates was fixed, but the other was spinning like a top. The object came very low over her roof, emitting a strong light—which illuminated the house for a few moments, like daylight. A liquid substance dropped from it and was falling toward the ground—like a kind of 'silver rain.' After the first moments of stupefaction she ran to the spot where the 'silver rain' had fallen and saw something shining—a brilliant glowing stain, spread over the cement near the washing-tank. She even tried to touch it, but stopped when she felt the heat it irradiated. Then she called me. After

collecting the material apparently dropped from the saucer, I delivered it personally to the office of the newspaper *Correio Popular*. Later I left that place, together with a reporter, and we delivered the material to a chemist, to be analysed."

The other witness is Mr. Luso Ventura, chief editor of the newspaper *Correio Popular*. He was interviewed by the correspondent of the newspaper *Tribuna Da Impressa* on December 23, 1954. He made the following statement (transcribed verbatim):

"A lady of proved identity who expressly asked us to keep her name unknown (for personal reasons) was in the backyard of her residence, at Major Solon Street, in Campinas, days ago—when she sighted a formation of three flying saucers in the sky. Flying at high speed, the three rounded cone-shaped craft were entirely different from any ordinary aircraft and she rapidly understood that they showed the characteristics of the so-called flying saucers. Amazed, she watched the objects manoeuvring in the sky. Then in one of these evolutions, she noticed that a liquid substance had dropped from one of the saucers. Part of this material fell in her backyard; the rest probably had fallen over the nearby houses. Approaching, she saw a boiling, incandescent substance spread on the cement near the washing-tank. The glowing stain appeared to have about 10 centimetres in diameter. Frightened, she called one of her neighbours, the Professor Benedito Goncalves Nascimento, a man of solid reputation in the town, who has had some articles on financial matters already published in the *Correio Popular*. He waited for the material to cool off gradually and collected it. Afterwards, he reported the case to the radio stations in the town and to the *Correio Popular*. The newspaper took the charge of delivering the already solid material to the chemists of the Young Laboratories to be analysed. One of the technicians, after sighting the sample, said the following: 'This substance presents all the characteristics of tin, at naked-eye. I am going to analyse it carefully and, in a few hours, I shall report the results of the chemical tests.' I will give later to the *Tribuna Da Impressa* more precise information about the sighting, the name of the chemist and the results of the chemical analyses. To finish, I would like to stress that Mr. Benedito Goncalves Nascimento is a truthful and reliable witness, a citizen of very good reputation. I have accepted his report of the facts in this case as the expression of truth."

According to Dr. Fontes, while Professor Nascimento waited for the hot molten metal to cool off, he phoned some friends to come to the scene at once. Before a number of witnesses who had gathered at the place the material was collected and brought to the office of *Correio Popular*. (See the accompanying photo of this material as loaned to the writer by Mr. Auriphebo B. Simoes.) From the newspaper office, the material was taken to the Young Laboratories, 584 Francisco Deodoro Street, Campinas, to be analysed.

The metallic sample was analysed by the chief chemist, Dr. Visvaldo Maffei, before several

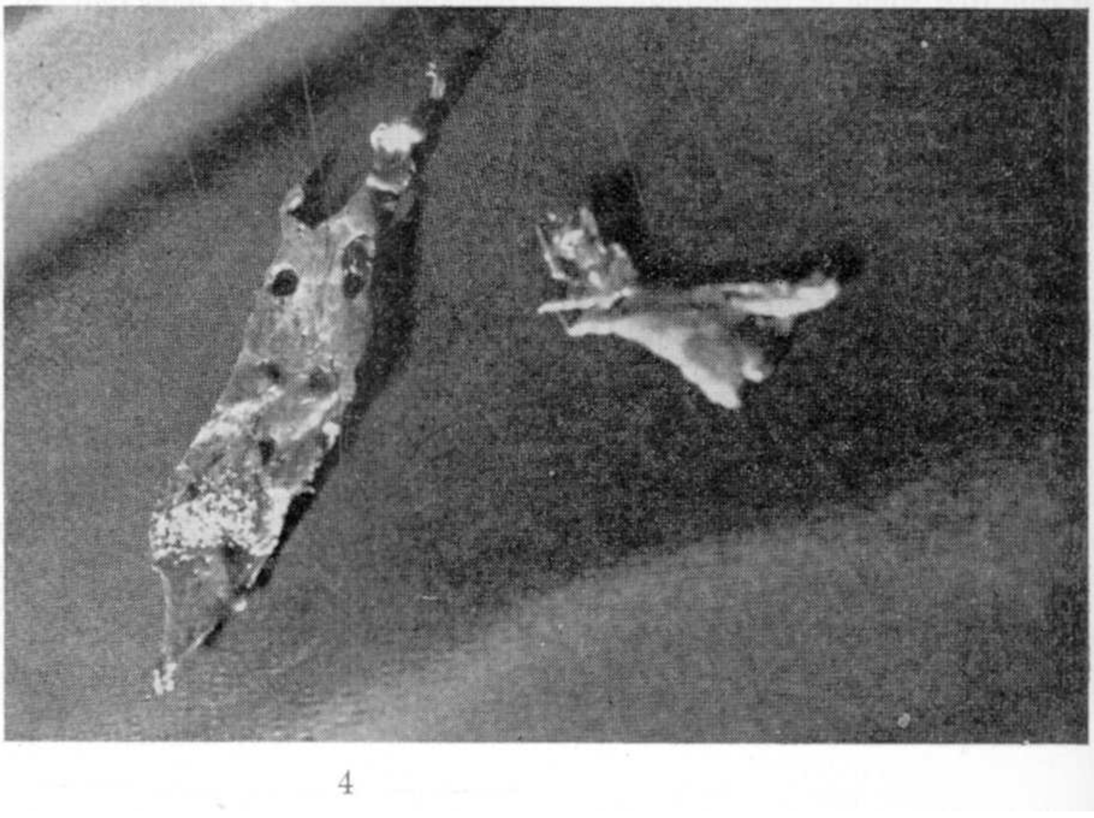

Fig. 1. Photograph of Campinas metal loaned to Professor Charles A. Maney by Auriphebo B. Simoes.

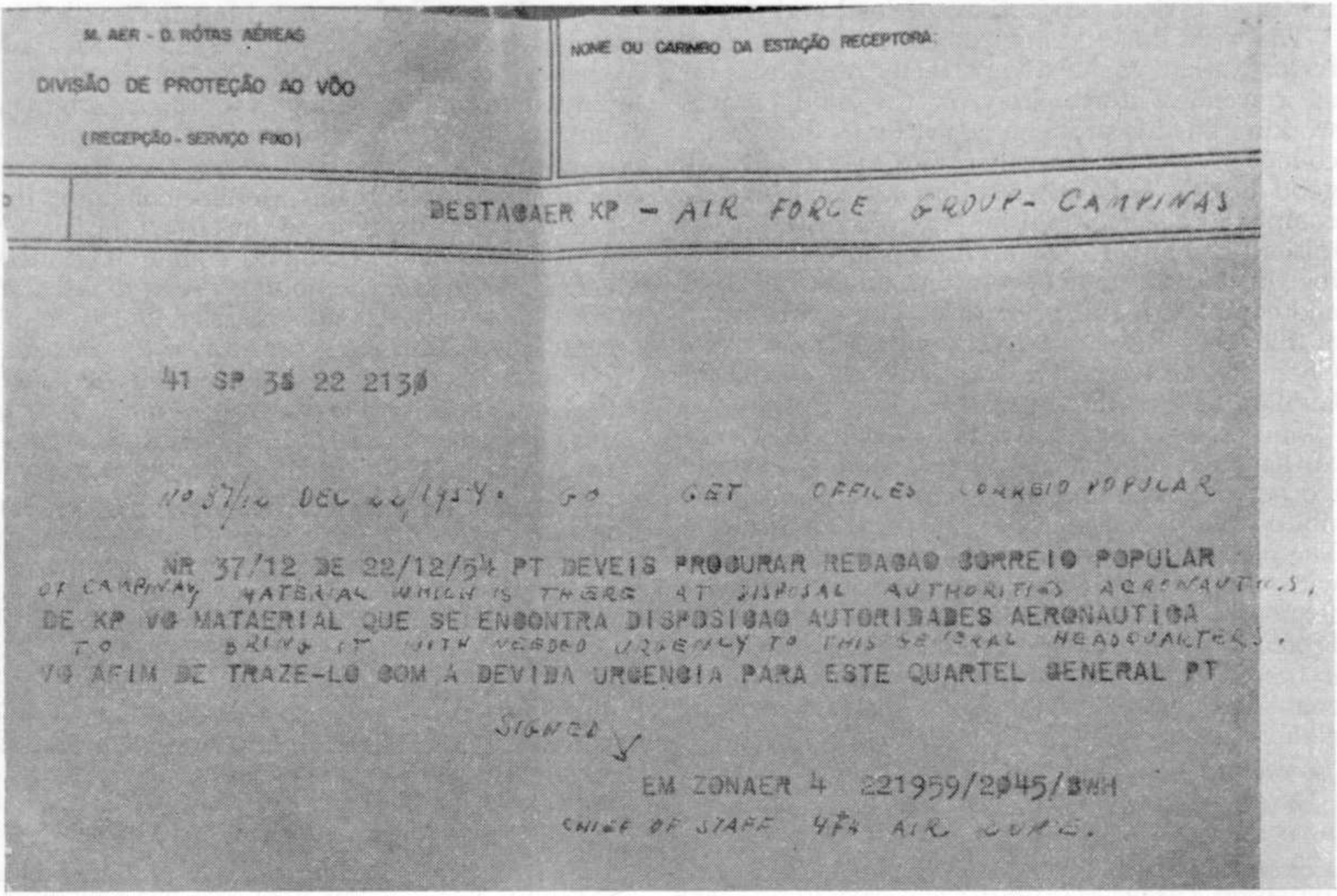
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Fig. 2. Photograph of Brazilian Air Force directive to collect material seen to fall from a UFO on December 13, 1954, at Campinas, Brazil. Photograph loaned to Professor Charles A. Maney by Auriphebo B. Simoes.

witnesses. Six hours later, Dr. Maffei released to the press the following report (transcribed verbatim):

"The sample analysed is a combination of chemically pure tin—88.91 per cent.—and oxygen—11.09 per cent., as oxide. No other element or impurity of any kind was found in the material in question. In other words, the analysis proved the substance to be really a metal, which is definitely tin—in high concentration and exceptionally pure; and with no impurities or trace elements, excepting oxygen which came from the oxidation in contact with the atmosphere.

"Observation: The results above refer only to the sample received, which weighed 1.30 grams."

According to Dr. Fones, the incident made headlines all over Brazil. The report of Dr. Maffei was published by Rio de Janeiro's newspapers on December 22, 23, 24, 1954.

The Air Defence Command at Rio de Janeiro (on December 22) sent immediately an emissary to get the sample of metal at Campinas (see the accompanying photo of the directive of Chief of Staff, E. M. Zonaer, 4th Air Zone, with English translation written in, loaned to the writer by Mr. Auriphebo B. Simoes). He (the emissary) was the 3rd Sergeant RTTE Nelson Bandeira da Silva, who left a receipt in the office of the *Correio Popular*, where the material was deposited. The results of the analysis made by the Air Force, however, were kept secret. An official statement was promised, but never released. I was informed that exhaustive tests performed by the Air Force chemists only confirmed the results obtained by Dr. Maffei.

A considerable number of samples of metal were collected from the vicinity of the fall at later dates by persons unknown and brought to the offices of the *Correio Popular*. A few of these samples, very small in size, were acquired by members of the Brazilian UFO research group, Centro De Pequisa Dos Discos Voadores, in October, 1956, some twenty-two months after the actual date of the sighting. There is no way of proving that these samples collected at a later date were metals which had fallen from the UFO. All of the *completed* tests on these various samples showed the metals to be antimony-free

solder of various proportions of lead and tin.

The work done on one sample by the late Professor Nathan Meltz was perfectly reliable as far as it went. Unfortunately, at the time he was working on this problem he was very busy with college classes and, furthermore, he was not in good health. Somehow, before his analysis was completed the material he was working on was mislaid and lost. However, Professor Meltz's tests for tin and antimony were carefully conducted and completed, and his findings agree with those of the Oak Ridge scientists, and Lex Mebane, Chemist of New York City and an official of Civilian Saucer Intelligence.

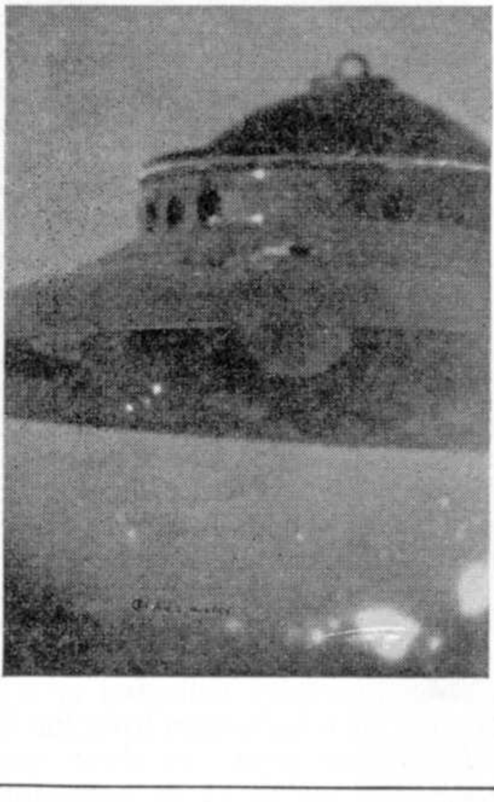
The writer determined the density of a part of the small bit of material that Professor Meltz worked on and found it to correspond to the density of solder, considerably heavier than pure tin. The piece of metal which Professor Meltz worked with was no larger than a grape seed, and consequently its density was not readily apparent. Professor Meltz did comment at the time that if the substance he examined were solder and contained lead, it did not act like solder with which he was quite familiar.

Later I sent all of my notes together with what was left of the sample of metal to Mr. Lex Mebane, because I valued his judgment very highly. These notes included an analysis by Oak Ridge scientists, who also found the sample free of antimony and who concluded that the metal examined was solder. Lex Mebane concludes that all of the samples sent to us from Brazil are solder, a judgment in which I concur. The metal identified as the original portion seen to fall from the UFO, which was analysed by Dr. Maffei, is presumably still in the possession of the Brazilian Air Force.

The Flying Saucer Tie

The first response to the suggestion published in our March-April issue has been encouraging and we hope to be able to make a further announcement in our next issue.

PHOTOGRAPHS



The following photographs are available in half-plate size at 1s. 6d. each (post free). Complete set of 10 for 15s. (post free).

1. Venusian scout ship photographed by G. Adamski, December 13, 1952.
2. Venusian scout ship rising, showing underside details. Photographed by G. Adamski, December 13, 1952.
3. Flying saucer over New York. Photographed by August Roberts on July 28, 1952.
4. Mother ship releasing scout craft. One scout has begun to leave.
5. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Two scouts have taken off.
6. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Five scouts have left the ship.
7. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Six scouts are now to be seen.
8. Giant carrier ship photographed at 7.58 a.m., May 1, 1952, by G. Adamski.
9. Submarine type space ship, photographed March 9, 1951, by G. Adamski.
10. Space ships photographed near the moon, May 16, 1951, by G. Adamski.

When ordering please give numbers of photographs. Send order with remittance to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, 1 Doughty Street, London, W.C.1, England.

THE EGYPTIAN "AIR RAIDS"

A study in confusion

by Waveney Girvan

IN the March-April World Round-Up feature the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW published the brief accounts of two incidents which occurred over Egypt on the nights of January 27 and 28. Unidentified planes had overflown Egyptian territory, causing a two-hour blackout on the former occasion: on the latter, ack-ack guns had opened fire. On January 31, the unknowns returned and ack-ack guns opened fire once more. The "raids" were all over the Suez area.

The Press reports were very brief, though the *Daily Express* carried them at the foot of its front page. Most people, therefore, overlooked the item altogether, although the story was sensational enough: if Egypt was being regularly raided then the Middle East must surely be ablaze and the risk of a nuclear war imminent. But nobody seemed to care.

When does an air raid become an "air raid"? I felt that in this question might lie the clue to the mystery. I therefore telephoned the foreign news editor of the *Daily Express,* only to discover that his department was as mystified as I was. They had, I was told on the telephone, been trying to find out more about the news items which they had printed. Apparently, they drew a blank for, as far as I can discover, the *Daily Express* printed nothing more about the matter.

The official view

Before I relate the next step in my inquiry, it should be mentioned that UFOs have not been known to visit Egypt. There is nothing on my files relating to Egypt, but I am open to correction on this point. I do not believe, however, that the Egyptians have heard very much about the flying saucers. One is, therefore, dealing with a virgin public opinion in that country and one is able to study the reaction to UFOs at a primitive stage. Public opinion in Egypt, as far as I can tell, is at the same stage as was the United States prior to 1947. I must also make it clear that I do not know what the objects were that flew over Egyptian territory. I suspect that they were flying saucers that were caught on radar and so precipitated a reaction on the part of the Egyptian Air Force. It seems, indeed, the likeliest solution to the mystery. What is really important, however, is the reaction of more than one government and it throws a light, I think, on the official point of view—wherever saucers appear.

My first move was to telephone the Egyptian Press Attaché in London. He told me that the objects were unidentified planes. I asked him if they could be Unidentified Flying Objects or UFOs, as they are officially referred to in America. He didn't altogether like the word "objects" and preferred the word "planes." Could they, I asked, have been flying saucers? Emphatically he denied this possibility: the objects, or planes, were solid. He wasn't prepared to admit that saucers could be solid, so for the remainder of our conversation I was obliged to refer to the unknowns as "planes."

The next step

My next question was to ask the Egyptian Press Attaché whose "planes" he thought they were. Without hesitation he blamed the Israeli Government. The only other fact I was able to elicit was that no damage had been caused by any of the "raids" and the unknowns hadn't been hit by the ack-ack guns because they had been flying much too high. Apparently, the Egyptian Government had imposed a censorship.

I then rang the Israeli Press Attaché in London and repeated to him the Egyptian accusation. His reply was to the effect that the Egyptians were in a state of nervousness at the present time and ready to believe anything. I pointed out, however, that they seemed to believe that they had been overflown by unidentified aircraft. The Israeli official assumed a very knowing tone of voice and after much hesitation told me that the Russians were becoming very interested in Egyptian territory. Israel, he went on, in any case would not be interested in the Suez area for reconnaissance. The part they would be interested

in, if trouble were to arise, would be in the forward air-bases over Sinai. The ball was now in the Russian court, but I felt it a waste of time to ring the Russian Embassy. I could anticipate the reply: the Americans would be the culprits.

By this time I had news of the third " air raid " and I now quote from the London *Sunday Telegraph* for January 29: " The planes said to have violated the Egyptian border in three night 'raids' over the Gaza Strip were French-made Super Mystere jets from the Negev, Israel, according to the Egyptian weekly *Akhbar el Yom.* The paper says that the planes carried French experts in aerial photography for reconnaissance over Egyptian military bases."

A colleague of mine, by the way, had also interviewed the Israeli Embassy and had been told that the craft were " unidentified enemy planes," though the official did not make it clear whether the enemy or the planes had remained unidentified. Now it appeared that the enemy had been identified, but two mysteries still remained. How was the " enemy " identified if the " planes " had not been brought down? And how did French experts in aerial photography indulge their expertise at night?

Although I was by now in danger of running out of embassies, I decided to try the French Air Attaché in London and see what he had to say about the affair. Yes, he had seen the *Sunday Telegraph's* news item and was still laughing about it. Why on earth, he said, should France, at this date, want to take aerial photographs of Egypt? At the time of Suez that might have been likely but not now, he answered. As I happened to know that this official was a friend of General Chassin's, I felt emboldened to put to him the suggestion that the objects which had caused all the mischief might have been flying saucers. He listened attentively.

In conclusion

There are one or two morals to this story. First of all it underlines the warning issued by the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW in its November-December, 1961, number that UFOs might trigger off catastrophe if they were to be taken for an enemy intrusion. The second point is that flying saucers, or some of them at least, seem to be indifferent to, or in ignorance of, our human preoccupations. There may be types of saucers that are coming here to hold a helpful and a watching brief over us—this is a point of the fiercest controversy among ufologists—but many others do seem to be here on a mission that can be described only as furtive and to be serving some mysterious purpose of their own at which they resent being discovered. Many of the best authenticated recent sightings have been at night and at times when men are not usually about.

The Egyptian " air raids " serve as an excellent reminder that some governments, at least, are put to cross purposes by our visitors. The representatives of the three governments with whom I spoke had not, apparently, given a thought to the possibility that extra-terrestrial visitors could have caused the comedy of errors related.

If the objects were, in fact, aircraft belonging to one of the powers on earth, then we have an excellent illustration of the newspapers' complete lack of curiosity. No reporter at home or abroad took the trouble to look into the matter. What did the ordinary Egyptian man-in-the-street think about the three " air raids "? We shall never know. The day of the enterprising reporter and the big scoop is over. When I looked to the London evening papers for enlightenment one night, on the front page of both I found the account of a swan having been found dying in a lady's bedroom. This was heady enough, but something even more exciting had occurred. Lord Snowdon had arrived, complete with brief-case, for his first day's work at the *Sunday Times.* Nothing about air-raids. Not even a mention of an " air-raid."

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THE EAGLE RIVER INCIDENT

A letter from Joe Simonton

IN the July-August, 1961, issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW we published a full account of what is known as the Eagle River incident. It concerned an alleged meeting on April 18 between a farmer, Joe Simonton, and three men from a landed saucer four miles from Eagle River, Wisconsin, U.S.A. Mr. Simonton was given some cakes and he claims that he provided water for the visitors in return. Perhaps the most significant aspect of the whole affair was the apparent seriousness devoted to the investigation by a representative of the United States Air Force. This is made all the more surprising in view of the denial of the existence of flying saucers issued by the U.S. Air Force in February, 1962.

As Mr. Simonton was the sole witness his story is, of course, difficult to check, but a series of questions put to him by Dr. Bernard E. Finch has produced a detailed reply. We print his letter below, having anglicised some of the spellings, but otherwise letting Mr. Simonton speak in his own words:

"Dear Sir,

February 22, 1962.

"I have your letter here at hand and I don't quite understand just what you mean when you say in attempting to put it over one needs more evidence. I have the evidence right here in this pancake that I have. I only have one left and I don't let it out of my sight. I got four of these cakes in all and the Air Force got the rest of them for analysis. One they (the Air Force) won't let me use in my story and the other came too late to put in my story. So I am not telling anyone what it is until I get it cleared by the Air Force.

"I hope you understand and I will tell you this—these cakes are not made out of anything we have here on earth would use for pancakes. I hope this drawing will do for what you want it for. Now I sent you one of my stories which tell everything that happened and explained the ship or flying saucer. Now I have three reasons why I think this thing was from another planet. First those men had a complexion much finer than any woman I ever saw and their eyes just looked right down to the bottom of your shoes. Do you understand? When they looked in your eyes, well you just couldn't stand to look at them for long. They seemed to do something to you. Now I had thousands of people here last summer and I looked them over good but I never saw anyone that had a complexion and eyes like those three men had.

"2. There isn't a country here on earth that don't have rations for their men when they go in the field or on trips. They don't cook their food as they go. Well, these men were cooking their food right on the job. 3. If we or any other country had one of these machines, why would they shoot these million-dollar firecrackers to get a man into space when they could take one of these flying saucers and put more than one man up in space and back safe all in one day?

"I think I have told you about all I can unless you ask me some questions, then I will answer them. Tell me why do you want all this about my experience? Are you writing it up for some book, paper or story? I wish I could get over to England and tell the people in my own words. But that is out for I'll never make it. I have been giving a few lectures here in the States about my experience. Well, I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

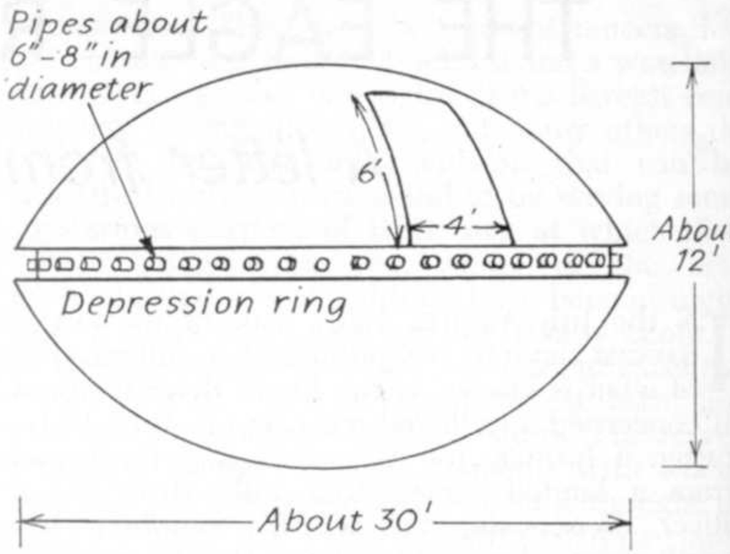
Joe Simonton."

The analysis of one of the cakes would seem to present a further puzzle, for in our November-December, 1961, issue another of our readers, Mr. W. J. Anstee, of Montreal, Canada, was told in a letter from the U.S. Air Force at Washington that the cake was composed of ordinary terrestrial materials.

Before reaching any conclusions on this matter it is worth recalling that the official investigators, Dr. J. A. Hyneck, Major Robert Friend, representing the Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center, and an officer from the K. I. Sawyer A.F.B., of Gwinn, Michigan, announced that there was "no question that Mr. Simonton felt that his contact had been a real experience."

If Mr. Simonton, however, was hallucinated, how did he come by the pancakes?

Even more puzzling was the appeal at the time for more such witnesses to come forward despite the risk of ridicule. This appeal was made nonsense of by the United States Air Force denial only a few months later. The only way in which all the various statements issued by the Air Force can be reconciled is by assuming that its ranks are hopelessly split on this issue and that control passes to and fro between sceptics and believers. The pronouncements made about flying saucers since 1947 constitute a bewildering study. If believers in saucers were in a majority it would be quite possible to choose as many favourable statements as unfavourable. As the majority is sceptical, the newspapers naturally seize on the denials and ignore the reservations and the occasional admission that something very strange indeed is going on in our skies.



Sketch based on a drawing supplied by Mr. Joe Simonton.

AN OPEN LETTER TO PROFESSOR KOPAL

WE are grateful to Mr. Roger Thomas for drawing our attention to the two articles on the subject of life in the universe which appeared in the Birmingham *Evening Despatch* on February 27 and 28. On the latter date the Astronomer-Royal, Dr. Richard van der Riet Woolley, re-affirmed his belief that "the saucer business is utter nonsense." Dr. Woolley is not worth powder and shot as his other *bêtise* on the subject of conventional space travel was delivered on the very eve of man's first triumph in space and will, happily, be long remembered against him. The other contributor, who wrote on February 27, was Professor Zdenek Kopal, Professor of Astronomy at Manchester University. We were very sorry to note that he, too, had attacked the flying saucers: "The existence of flying saucers," he wrote, "cannot be accepted by a rational person. If these objects are really craft manned by intelligence beings, what is their aim? If they are so intelligent that they can build spaceships, surely they would have tried to contact us by radio. It is so much more simple than sending people."

Mr. Roger Thomas contributed an excellent short letter in reply to the *Evening Despatch* on March 2. While Dr. Woolley is best left alone, we felt that Professor Kopal was not beyond redemption, so we addressed to him the following open letter on March 19:

"Professor Zdenek Kopal,
Manchester University,
Manchester.

Dear Sir,

In the course of your article in the Birmingham "Evening Dispatch" on February 27 you say that no rational person can accept the existence of flying saucers. As the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW is devoted entirely to an examination of this phenomenon and accepts the existence of the saucers, we must assume that you consider us irrational. But before you dismiss us entirely might we suggest that you study the enclosed copy of our March-April, 1962, issue? If we are as irrational as we appear to you, could we not be told where we have gone wrong and why the evidence we print is either suspect or wrongly adduced?

We would draw your attention particularly to two items which you will find in this issue. On page 18 we report an incident which occurred last February near Ivinghoe. We claim credence for it because of the obvious sincerity of Mr. Wildman who was interrogated not only by our investigators, but also by the police. If, however, it is alleged that Mr. Wildman was the sole witness of this incident and was suffering from hallucination, we must point out that his experience is very similar to many that have been reported by several witnesses at

a time in many other countries, notably the U.S.A. and France. Should you persist in disbelief, then we would draw your attention to the article on page 16.

You may be unaware of the important discovery made by Aime Michel concerning the sightings reported over France in 1954. The pattern which emerged from his studies was that the objects reported over a number of towns and villages appeared to have flown in straight lines and made recognisable geometric patterns on a map. As the places whence these reports came numbered as many as five, six or even seven, mere chance was ruled out and so were the conventionalisations that are so frequently offered to explain the objects away. Irrational people do not happen to live along straight lines: errant weather balloons, meteors, etc., do not trace geometrical patterns on a map.

In the article to which we have referred we have reproduced one of these many straight lines. To controvert the evidence it is necessary for you to adopt one or other of two alternatives. You can say that the reports were not made on the date mentioned (October 15, 1954) or you can assert that these towns and villages do not lie along a straight line. If you take your stand on the former we shall produce the newspapers concerned; if you prefer the latter we shall confound you with the map. Incidentally, the object reported was seen by several witnesses at one or two of the places mentioned. At one it left behind physical evidence as well. Dare we suggest that the exact opposite of your assertion is much nearer the truth? No rational man could reject such evidence.

As you have invoked rationality, might we point out where we think you show a lack of it? Your argument appears to be that because the objects do not behave in the way you would expect them to, therefore they do not exist. You have confused two separate issues - existence and behaviour. Because, to your way of thinking, the latter is peculiar, it is no reason to doubt the former. Your reasoning is, therefore, both illogical and egocentric. We can offer scores of possible reasons for what you call an odd behaviour, but we admit that they would be guesses. For instance, to answer your point about radio, one of our contributors has suggested that the pilots of the saucers may have evolved beyond radio as a method of communication and regard it as outdated as the bush telegraph. Here we enter the realms of speculation, but do so merely to answer the hypothetical question which you threw out as a means of side-tracking the positive evidence. It is possible, of course, that you may have been unaware of this evidence. If so, we should be very pleased to let you know where it can be found.

Our main reason for writing to you at this length is to enter a plea for an open mind on our subject. We could perhaps answer better your question about the behaviour of the flying saucers if we had more evidence. We know that much is being suppressed by witnesses who fear the ridicule which invariably attaches itself to those brave enough to testify in public. This ridicule springs from the categorical denials which you, and many other scientists (though by no means all), are continually publishing. You may not realise it, but you are, in fact, delaying the birth of a new science. To deny without good reason (and in your article you gave no reason at all) is unscientific and unfair to those who are seeking the truth.

This open letter will be published in our May-June issue and we make you the offer of space for a reply. We are anxious to discover, once and for all, where the irrationality lies - on your side or on ours.''

At the time of going to press, no reply or acknowledgment has been received from Professor Kopal. If we hear from him we shall be very pleased to afford a suitable space in our next issue for a reasoned reply.

A SOVIET VIEW

In the zenith of the black vault above our heads Vega was sparkling like a blue diamond, and in the west, like an owl's eye, Arcturus burned golden, while the star-dust of the Milky Way shone like molten silver. Low above the horizon I saw the blood-red flame of the Scorpion's Heart, and to the right the dim pin-point of the Archer, marking the axis of the huge stellar wheel of the Galaxy, the focal " sun " of our universe; a sun we shall never see, for it is curtained by an enormous mass of dark matter.

In those countless worlds, I thought, there was certain to be life—life strange and infinitely varied. There, too, in the inaccessible heavens, live creatures possessed of the power of thought, while I strain my eyes in vain and tremble at the vague premonition of great things in store for the human race. But they will come only when the earthlings rid their globe of the dark bestial forces that still contaminate it and threaten the priceless treasures of human thought and aspiration.

I. Yefremov,

The Nur-i-Desht Observatory

(Foreign Languages Publishing House,
Moscow, 1954.)

Adamski's Hieroglyphics

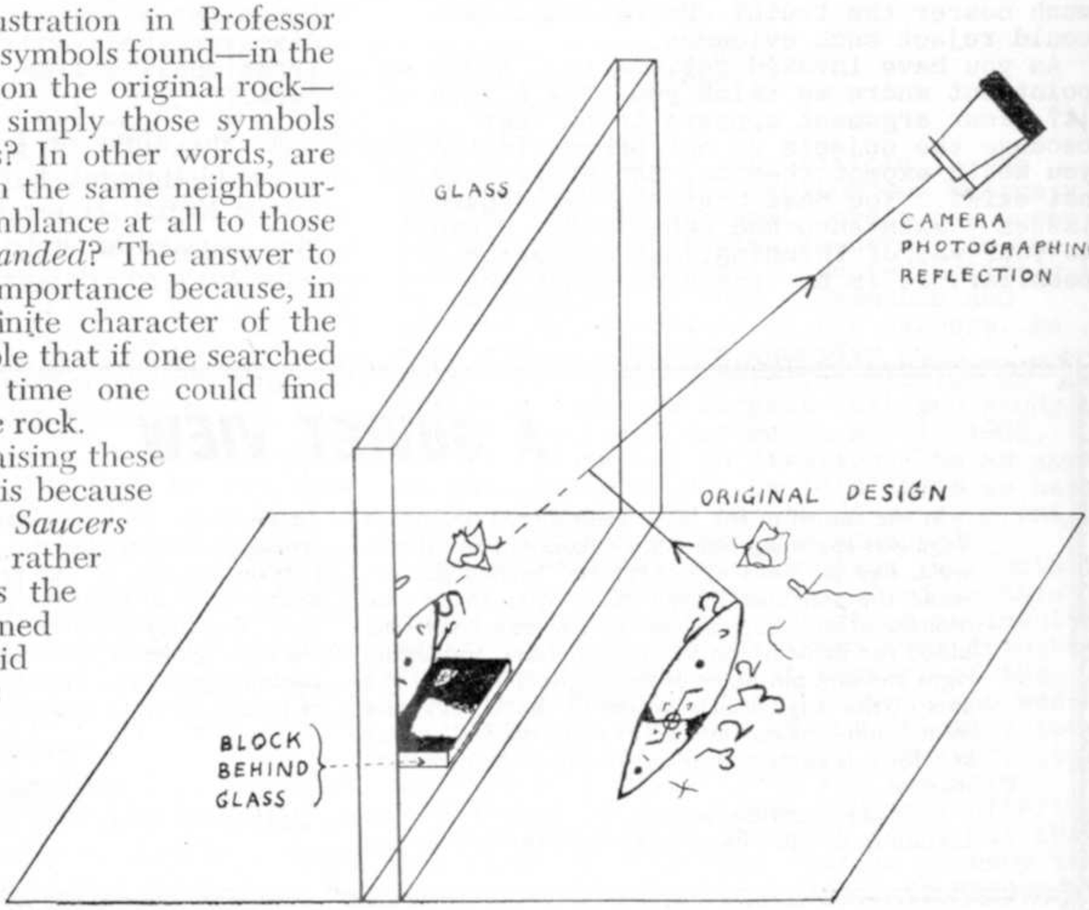
by Charles A. Stickland, B.Sc., A.R.C.S.

THE account in the January-February issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW concerning the finding of symbols resembling those on Adamski's photograph is of great interest. However, before we get too excited about this discovery, we ought perhaps to ask ourselves one or two questions.

Firstly, are we justified in calling the symbols in *Flying Saucers Have Landed* a message? Most messages of which we have experience have a pronounced orientation. The script of a message normally consists of a number of horizontal rows or vertical columns separated by well-defined blank spaces. This is certainly not true of the symbols we are discussing. They are strewn haphazardly over the paper as though someone had been simply trying to fill up space. If this was a message we might legitimately expect a more orderly arrangement.

Secondly, does the illustration in Professor Homet's book show all the symbols found—in the same relative positions as on the original rock—or is it meant to portray simply those symbols which resemble Adamski's? In other words, are there still more symbols in the same neighbourhood which bear no resemblance at all to those in *Flying Saucers Have Landed*? The answer to this question is of some importance because, in view of the rather indefinite character of the latter, it is quite conceivable that if one searched for a sufficient length of time one could find similar marks on any large rock.

The main reason I am raising these issues at the present time is because the photograph in *Flying Saucers Have Landed* displays rather peculiar features. Besides the symbols already mentioned there appears to be a solid block. Around the block is wound a length of chiffon-like material. A cursory examination might lead one to suppose that the whole is a photograph of a block, lying on a sheet of paper covered with signs and symbols. What is odd, however, is that if one examines it carefully one can see that a line of the drawing of the lens-shaped object is not hidden by the block as one would expect but in fact continues over it. By the courtesy of Mr. Waveney Girvan I was able to examine an original print and on this the superimposition of drawing on block was quite clear. It is obvious, therefore, that this is not a straightforward photograph but has been produced by some trick means. Two negatives could have been printed on the same paper or possibly a picture could have been taken of the block through a sheet of glass supported vertically. (See figure.) In the latter case the signs and symbols would not be the originals but their reflections in the glass surface. The photograph would thus show the



reflections above the block. There is a certain amount of support for this explanation inasmuch as some of the signs, reflected in a mirror, seem to be no more than ordinary letters and figures.

If it is accepted that the photograph is a "trick" one, and I do not see how this conclusion can be avoided, the problem remains: "What was the motive?" The possible answers to this are many and will depend on whether one accepts Adamski's account of the picture's origin. Personally, I jib at the double mystification involved.

If occupants of space ships were responsible, the signs and symbols are mysterious enough in themselves, without it being necessary to take a trick photograph of them. But I can quite easily imagine a human being, desiring to produce a mysterious picture, spoiling the final effect by being too elaborate. The objection might be raised that the same error could be made by the occupant of a space ship. This is so, but I think that such a creature, if inclined to be mysterious, would be less likely to make the elementary mistake that has been made here. It is for this reason that I believe that this photograph was man-made, as were the others in the book. The significance of Professor Homet's findings is thus considerably lessened.

CELESTIAL FIREFLIES

COLONEL GLENN, according to the Washington correspondent of *The Times* on February 24, described the phenomenon he witnessed every time the sun rose. He was first travelling backwards, the normal attitude in a Mercury space craft, and when the first dawn arrived he was watching his instruments. When he looked up he said it was like gazing into a new star field, and he thought at first that he was looking outwards into space.

Colonel Glenn then realised that he was travelling through a field of thousands of particles, bright yellowish green, like fireflies on a dark night. They came past the space craft on both sides and continued back along its path. He turned the space craft round to face the direction of travel, and he then calculated that he was moving through the particles at a relative speed of three to five miles an hour. At first he thought they were the needles that the United States Air Force had fired into space last year and lost, but they did not look like needles. He then supposed that the hydrogen peroxide jets that maintain the correct attitude of the space craft were vaporising and fluorescing, but he observed the particles only during the first three and a half minutes of first light.

He had no theory and merely reported what he had seen. The "fireflies" varied in size from a pin head to about three-eighths of an inch: sometimes they were white. His psychiatrist asked him: "What did they say, John?" In passing, it is strange how risibility is provoked by any new phenomenon, and if this particular psychiatrist were himself to be analysed most interesting results should accrue. Another good idea might be to send the psychiatrist into space so he could see—and probably hear—for himself.

To return to the fireflies. On page 76 of the English edition of *Inside the Space Ships*, published in 1955, Adamski claims to describe the view at an altitude of about 50,000 miles: "I was amazed to see that the background of space is totally dark. Yet there were manifestations taking place all around us, as though billions upon billions of fireflies were flickering everywhere, moving in all directions, as fireflies do. However, these were of many colours, a gigantic celestial fireworks display that was beautiful to the point of being awesome."

People, even within our movement, hotly dispute the Adamski claims and many of the criticisms which he has attracted have not been unreasonable. However, if we are to be fair-minded we must draw attention to this remarkable similarity of the two descriptions quoted above. It seems almost impossible that such a phenomenon could have been invented seven years before it was first reported by one of our astronauts.

METEORITES?

IN our March-April issue we reported that a meteorite had fallen in Cumberland. There were one or two puzzling features about the incident: one was the smell of sulphur that accompanied the object as it fell to the ground. The material was sent to experts for examination and the *Cumberland Evening News,* on January 15, reported the results as follows: "Two experts from Durham University have confirmed that the fragment picked up on the Solway Chemicals site at Whitehaven in the early hours of Saturday morning (February 13) is not part of a meteorite, it was revealed at a conference at Marchon Products works today.

"The main fragment under examination, it was stated, is more likely to be a piece of slag from Workington Iron and Steel Works and used for road making and draining on the site.

"Mr. Robert C. Dickie, production director at the works, said Dr. M. H. Battey, senior lecturer in geology at King's College, Newcastle, and Dr. J. M. Jones, a college lecturer, visited the works yesterday, and thought it was perfectly clear from the visual observations that a meteorite had passed over the vicinity, and had broken up, but that the fragments were not part of it.

"The experts were willing to pursue their investigations, however, and are anxious to be informed of descriptions from any other witnesses in various parts of the district, so that they can get a fix on the meteorite by cross-bearings.

"Dr. Jones confirmed today in a telephone interview that the piece of rock 'definitely did not originate in space.'"

It is, of course, impossible to discover the truth behind this mystery, but readers may recall the Maury Island mystery of 1947 when a disc dropped two fragments into the sea. Some of the material was recovered and turned out to be slag. The earlier incident is mentioned merely as a possibility that the experts at Durham University could have overlooked. Perhaps Dr. Jones is quite unaware of this incident. Otherwise he may not have been so positive in his assertion that the material did not originate in space.

By a coincidence, the *Yorkshire Post* on January 19 contained an article by Douglas Emmott, their science correspondent who related his experience on a meteorite-hunt: "Hunting a meteorite on the strength of one sighting is on a par with looking for the Abominable Snowman in the foothills of the Pennines.

"However, the sighting was clearly an honest one. It was a lovely morning. And, from time to time, a grandmother with no knowledge of football form picks a jackpot-winning line on the pools.

"That is how Mr. Steve Keeler, a member of the British Interplanetary Society, and I, yesterday came to scour a large muddy turnip field on Yorbus Grange Farm, Bishop Monkton, the property of Mr. P. K. Slater.

"Meteorite-hunting, at the best of times, is a difficult job. When the hunting ground is strewn with stones and pock-marked with pools, as was our field, it becomes impossible. In fact, it was the stoniest field I have ever tramped across.

"Miss Ruth Storey, 21, a clerk, of St. John's Crescent, Bishop Monckton, was adamant that the 'ball of flame which zoomed low over my boy-friend's car, late last Friday night,' landed within sight of Moor Road.

"She reported: 'It was a beautiful, and yet frightening, sight, changing from dazzling white to green flames before disappearing over the field. It seemed so close, I thought it was going to hit us.'

"Miss Storey gave Mr. Keeler a detailed report of the estimated position, drawing a rough map of the area as a guide. She knew Mr. Keeler was interested in 'this sort of thing,' and told him about it on Wednesday, after being prompted by radio reports of meteorite falls in Whitehaven, at the weekend.

"Unless one is remarkably lucky, however, it is virtually impossible to plot the trajectory of a meteor, or a 'shooting star,' without several independent sightings from different points. Further, a meteor usually travels several miles after the light, caused by the great friction with the atmosphere, has died out.

"Although 'shooting stars' are common enough, rarely does a meteorite survive its fiery passage from space."

Behind these two incidents there lurks a suspicion that the objects were not meteors (or meteorites if and when they fell) at all, but something much more remarkable. Although the United States Air Force is very willing to invoke meteors to explain away a large number of sightings on its files, those in authority are faced with a real problem when one of them actually lands on the earth or behaves unlike a meteor when still in flight. Fortunately for those whose job is to explain away such incidents, the public has a very short memory and few people are sufficiently informed to detect the inconsistencies of these explanations—and sufficiently incurious even if they should detect the anomaly.

EXOBIOLOGY
Facts and possibilities
by W. H. Watson

THE Russians are claiming credit for a scientific discovery, but this time no-one seems to realise that once again their claims are not well-founded.

System 61 in the constellation of Cygnus: the nucleus of 61 Cygni is a double star 10.7 light-years from Earth. In 1942 an attendant planet was deduced from peculiarities in the motion of the primaries, a planet whose mass is fifteen times that of Jupiter. In view of this fantastic mass, the satellite has been termed an *extra-solar* planet because astronomers believe it to be composed of "condensed matter"—matter whose atoms have been so compacted that a cubic inch of it may weigh several tons. It is to be noted that, although scientists are aware of the existence of other bodies in the Universe consisting of such massive material, these other bodies are dead stars, and this is too small to be a sun.

At a distance of some 12 light-year from Earth, coasts the binary star 70 Ophiuchi, also parent to an extra-solar planet. At the speed of light spationauts of a technologically advanced community would not find such distances insurmountable.

To enter battle on the question of the habitability of the outer giant planets of this solar system, let it be admitted, in spite of the apparent paradox, that the closer a celestial body is to Earth the less is known about it by astronomers—within certain limits. The reason is that professional astronomers are simply not interested in anything but the most distant of bodies. Hence, although we would expect to know more of Mars and Venus than of Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus (Pluto is beyond the "certain limits" before mentioned), in fact, we can be reasonably sure of the atmospheres of the outer planets as more attention was accorded them in the first days of astronomical instruments, whereas we can be pretty *un*sure of the composition of the atmospheres of our closer neighbours. (In addition, the atmospheres of the outer giants are much more dense and readily discernible.)

The atmospheric envelopes of the gargantuans of the solar system are such as are consistent with the requirements for rudimentary life formation; such as was the atmosphere of this Earth a couple of thousand million years ago. Perhaps by the time the Sun swells to become a red giant star, engulfing the inner planets in its thermo-nuclear furnace, life on Saturn and its companions will be ready to blossom forth into intelligence.

However, it is just possible for life of some advanced nature to be extant on the larger moons of Jupiter and/or Saturn. Another exciting possibility has arisen in recent years, one which does not involve life as it is known on Earth: under certain conditions it is possible for methane or ammonia to take the place of water while fluorine could replace oxygen.

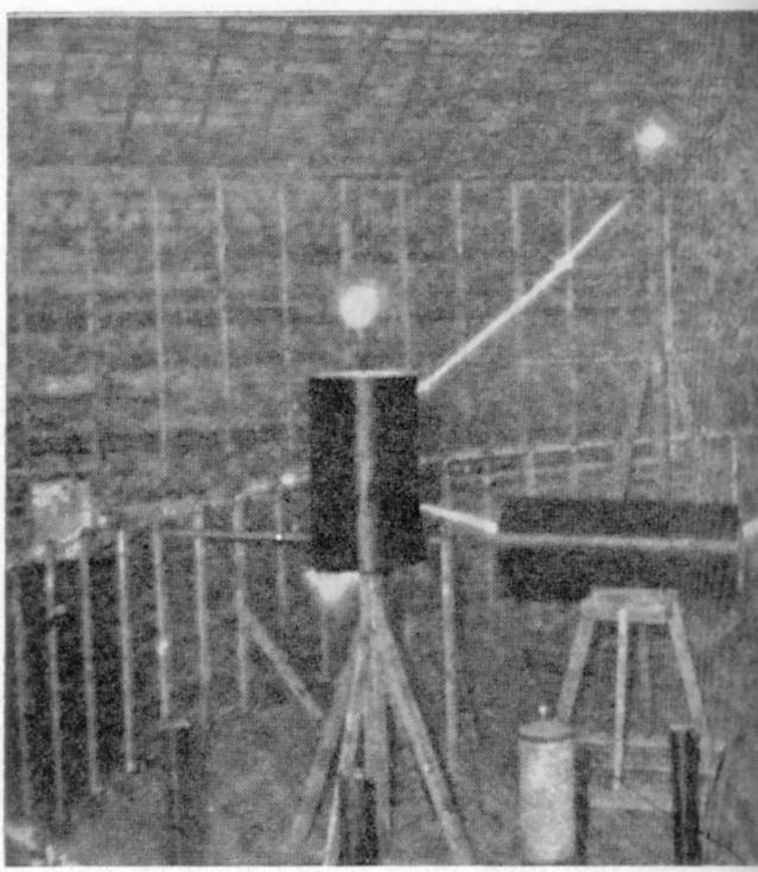
A belt of rocks orbiting mainly between Mars and Jupiter comprises the asteroids. Few of them keep to the plane of the ecliptic—the apparent path of the Sun around the Earth—but vary as much as 43° above or below. Some approach the Sun to within the orbit of Mercury and recede as far as Saturn. Such minor planets could conceivably be utilised as interplanetary vehicles for jumping-off points in the exploration of the planets.

There are probably at least 100,000 asteroids in all, though a mere 2,000 or so have actually been discovered to date. Some are as small as a fraction of a mile and they range up as far as 480 miles in the case of Ceres, the diameters of the great majority lying between two and thirty miles.

The asteroids are responsible for a vast quantity of the meteors which strike the Earth's atmosphere. It is in the remains of meteorites that scientists have lately been discovering evidence of extra-terrestrial organic life structures. Is it not logical to suppose that at least some of these originated on the planet Aster prior to its destruction by some unknown force? Aster was a planet of similar size to Earth, and it lay in the "temperate" zone of the system. Could advanced life-forms have existed on that world? Indeed, could they have been responsible for their own destruction? Venus is thought to be younger than Earth; Mars—on the other side—is older: did Aster cool and develop even more rapidly than Mars? (If so, could rival factions in any nuclear conflict have been the legendary lands of Atlantis and Lemuria? The absence of substantiated material proof for the existence of the mystery lands is surely adequately countered by the assumption of their never having existed on Earth, but on Aster.)

It may be suggested here, moreover, that the Asterian cosmic cataclysm was responsible for the enigmatic craters of our close friend the Moon. It may also have wiped all, or at least the greater part of, life off old Mars, although his atmosphere would have stayed the main blast.

ELECTRICITY FOR SPACE EXPLORATION



BY VJEKOSLAV GRADECAK

This article first appeared in the *Ryan Reporter* for February, 1962, published by the Ryan Aeronautical Company of Lindbergh Field, San Diego, 12, California, U.S.A. Having accepted, as did Plantier, that an ideal source of propulsive power is waiting to be tapped by man's ingenuity, the author proceeds to design the ideal spacecraft for journeys to the nearer planets and beyond. Although the phrase "flying saucer" is nowhere used in this article, the spacecraft designed bears a striking resemblance to the objects described by many thousands of witnesses all over the world and not infrequently photographed. If these witnesses have, as it is claimed, conjured up the objects out of their subconscious—as some sceptics have suggested—then they should be regarded as geniuses rather than as deluded fools.

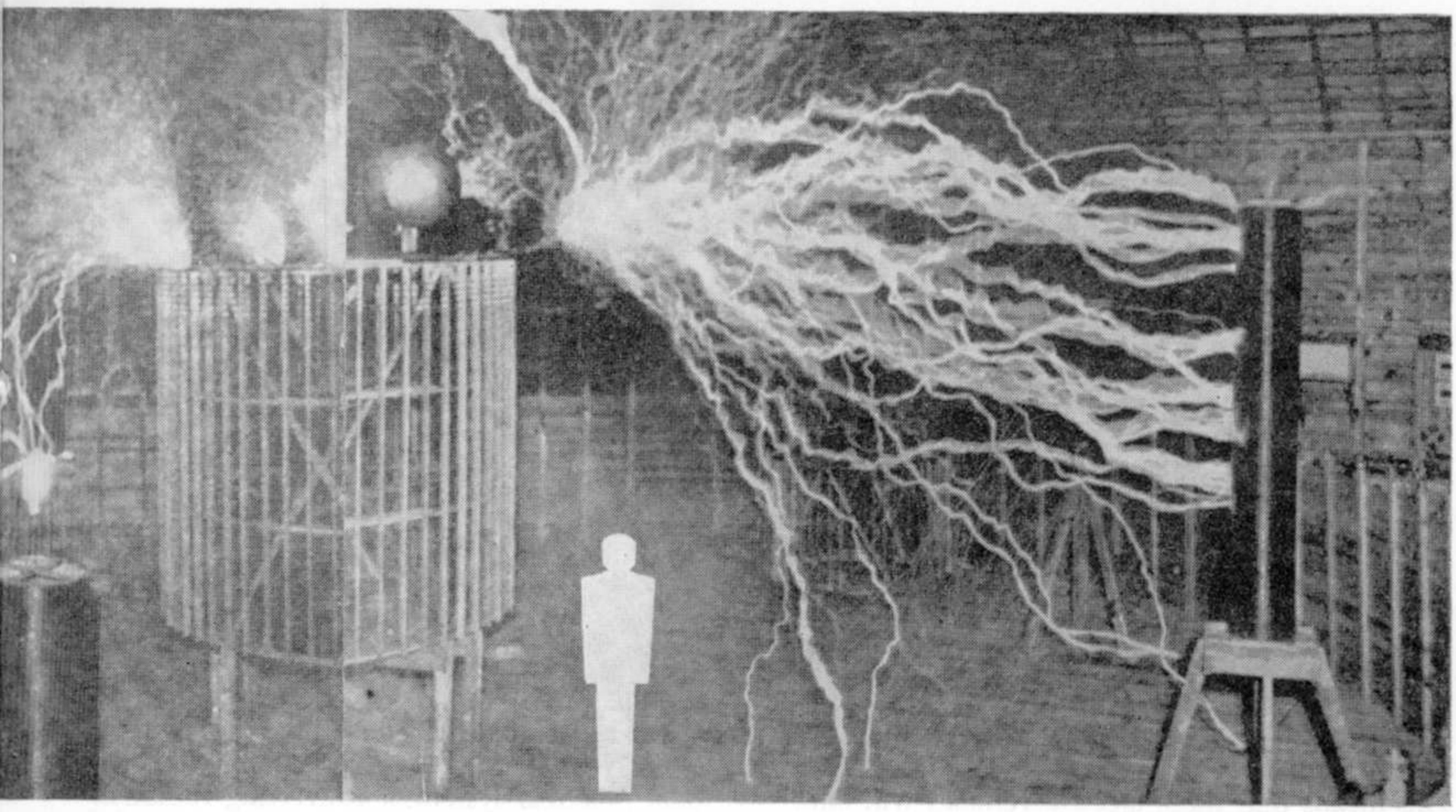
Nikola Tesla (1857-1943) was an American inventor who, for some time, worked with Edison. He discovered the rotary magnetic field and many electrical improvements, including the Tesla coil. Later he did valuable work on electronics.

"I have produced electrical discharges the actual path of which, from end to end, was probably more than one hundred feet long; but it would not be difficult to reach lengths one hundred times as great.

"I have produced electrical movements occurring at the rate of approximately 100,000 horsepower, but rates of 1-, 5- or 10,000,000 horsepower are easily practicable.

"Instead of sending sound-vibrations toward a distant wall, I have sent electrical vibrations toward the remote boundaries of the earth, and instead of the wall the earth has replied. In place of an echo I have obtained a stationary electrical wave, a wave reflected from afar.

"My measurements and calculations have shown that it is perfectly practicable to produce on our globe, by the use of these principles, an electric movement of such magnitude that, without the slightest doubt, its effect will be perceptible on some of our nearer planets, as Venus and Mars. In fact, that we can produce a distinct effect on one of these planets in this novel manner, namely, by disturbing the electrical condi-



tion of the earth, is beyond any doubt.

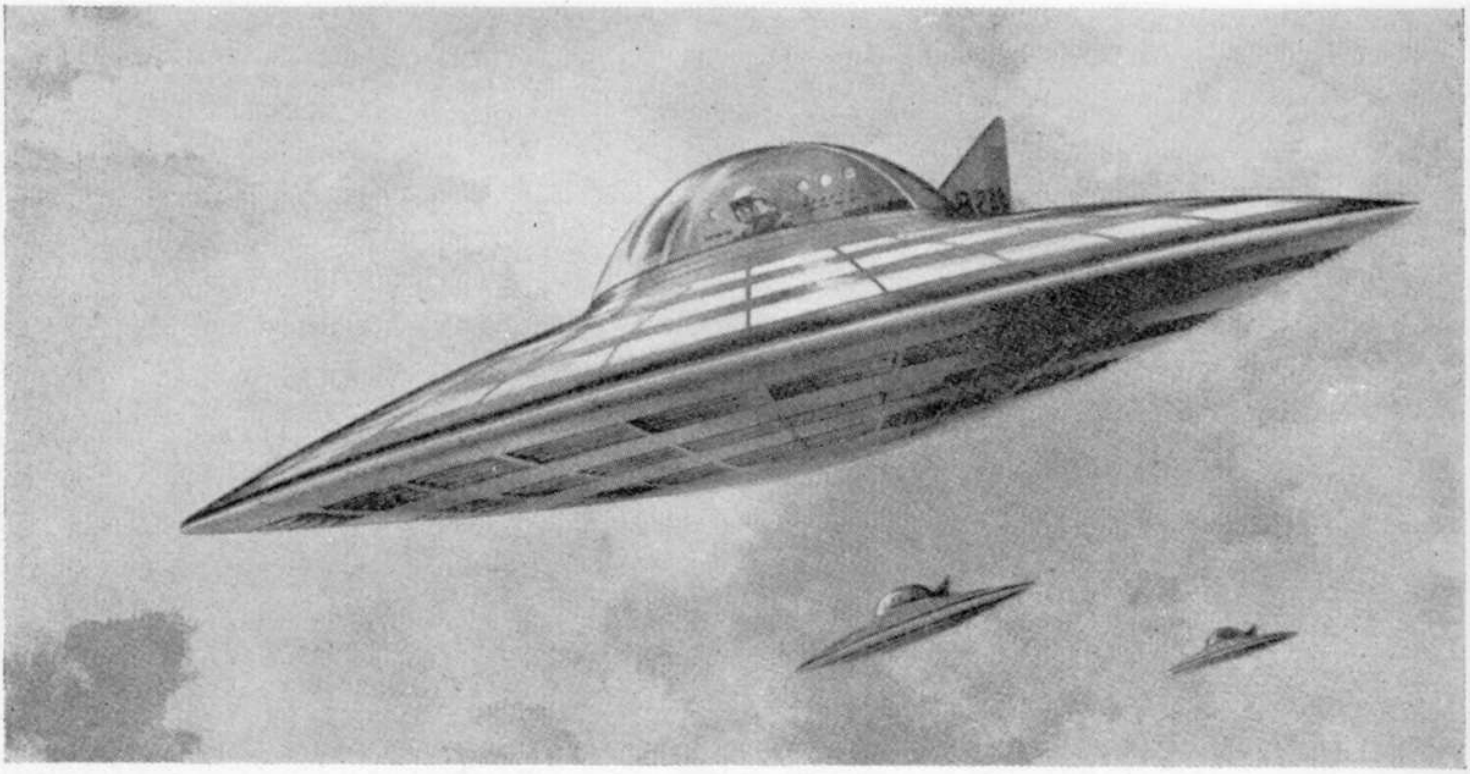
"We are whirling through endless space with an inconceivable speed, all around us everything is spinning, everything is moving, everywhere is energy. There must be some way of availing ourselves of this energy more directly. Then, with the light obtained from the medium, with the power derived from it, with every form of energy obtained without effort, from the store forever inexhaustible, humanity will advance with giant strides. The mere contemplation of these magnificent possibilities expands our minds, strengthens our hopes and fills our hearts with supreme delight."

Nikola Tesla—1895.

TESLA was an electrical genius whose scientific discoveries and inventions were basic to modern electrical and electronic engineering. He also discovered and demonstrated the principles of high frequency, high potential currents shown in the historic photograph here reproduced. These were the famous Colorado Springs experiments. The electromagnetic fields created were so intense that they perceptibly affected the distribution of the electrical potential of the earth. In Tesla's words, "In these experiments, effects were developed incomparably greater than any ever produced by human agencies, and yet these results are but an embryo of what is to be."

Such a force field can be applied widely, including electric aerospace propulsion. Within the next ten years electric propulsion will play a leading role in making extensive space trips possible. This conclusion has been expressed in recent years by many researchers. They have compared the advantages and limitations of various space propulsion methods.

Chemical propulsion is the only presently available means for attainment of orbital speeds and altitudes. This is its chief value. Multimillion pound chemical super-boosters can put significant payloads into interplanetary orbits for manned expeditions to the moon, and possibly Venus and Mars. The estimated cost of these projects is staggering. In addition, the exploration of our nearest planets requires transit times of one to three years for a round trip planned on the capability of chemical propulsion. This aspect alone is sufficient to make electric propulsion a highly advantageous method of fuel conservation. For trips beyond Mars, electric propulsion is mandatory both to conserve fuel and also to shorten transit time. Chemical systems would require years or even decades for a round trip. Electrically-propelled space vehicles have great payload capability. A Martian round trip, for example, has a payload ratio of almost 50 per cent.



The ideal spacecraft. What else but a flying saucer?

This means that these electric vehicles will offer comfortable living space for "shirt-sleeve" environment and adequate power for utilities.

Most electric propulsion systems are very small thrust devices. This limits them to missions beyond the atmosphere of the earth. Because of this, it is believed that this shortcoming is in the nature of electric propulsion. Consequently, it appears that orbit injection can be accomplished by only chemical means, and by chemo-nuclear means in the future. Once the orbit is established, the electric system would take over in providing thrust.

There are very severe problems in manœuvring spacecraft. For example, the spacecraft may require a radically changing course, should an unexpected emergency occur during any point of trajectory.

Such manœuvrability is absolutely necessary for practical space systems of the future which have progressed beyond the development stage of present rockets. Both the injection into orbit and practical manoeuvrability in space demand high thrust propulsion and fuel economy simultaneously. A possibility of meeting these requirements is electro-chemical propulsion. Here, chemical fuels provide a slight exhaust mass which is accelerated by ultra high electromagnetic fields. The prime source of vehicle energy, capable of producing the extremely high force fields, must not require chemical fuels for its own operation. This requires nuclear energy sources or some practical system of converting radiation energy pervading space. In either case, the vehicle size is certain to be large to accommodate the primary energy source. Its weight must not exceed a reasonable fraction of the vehicle's gross weight. Spaciousness is required for physiological and psychological comfort of the crew as well as to increase the safety against meteorite hazards by an interlock escape system.

Most approaches involve the study of assembling large structures in space by combining rendezvous techniques with payload capability of large chemical boosters. However, there are severe problems of weightlessness, inertial forces of large parts floating in space, gyroscopic and tidal forces warping large space structures in various stages of assembly, and hazards to men working in free space.

An alternative to this approach of assembling large vehicles in space is being investigated at Ryan as a part of an Electric Aerospace Propulsion concept based on the following:

A completely assembled, large aerospace vehicle should be capable of performing throughout the altitude range, from hovering at sea level to the attainment of orbital speeds, in such a manner as to include the performance characteristics of a helicopter, a propeller aircraft, a jet aeroplane, a ramjet and a space vehicle into an integrated system design.

Theoretical investigations based on this premise and supported by an initial experimental

programme have indicated a possible solution to this objective. The key is contained in the aforementioned concept of electro-chemical propulsion, enlarged by the concept of an electric air breathing engine. Efficiency requires that the velocity of the exhaust jet should be matched to the vehicle velocity. At low speeds the jet velocity should be small. As vehicle speed is increased, so also should the jet velocity be increased to maintain high efficiency of energy conversion. However, using small jet velocities for take-off requires a large exhaust mass, as in the case of a helicopter whose rotor causes a large air mass to move with relatively small downwash velocity. At the somewhat higher speeds developed by subsonic aircraft, the rotor of a helicopter is replaced by a propeller which moves a smaller air mass at higher speeds. At the supersonic velocities of a jet aeroplane, the flow of exhaust mass is still smaller but its velocity is further increased.

With an electric air breathing engine this can be achieved by force field control, capable of moving large air masses at low speeds and smaller air masses at higher velocities. A number of vehicle geometries are suitable for satisfying the requirement of velocity and mass control of the exhaust jet. One such geometry, offering additional design advantages of minimum structural weight, large volume and cargo capacity combined with desirable aero-thermodynamic characteristics, is shown in the illustration as a circular disc vehicle. This geometry is also particularly suitable for hovering close to ground, because the annular jet augments very substantially the cushion effect of the air trapped between the vehicle and the ground.

By these principles, the efficiency and the thrust of electric aerospace propulsion can be maintained at high levels throughout the entire velocity and altitude range. After leaving the atmosphere, electric propulsion consists of a combination of intense force fields accelerating colloidal chemical plasma; the heavier elements being used for high thrust performance and light elements for sustained vehicle acceleration.

Research is continuing in the area of generation and control of high electromagnetic field intensities and colloidal plasma combined with the principle of an electric air breathing engine. Aero-electric propulsion is expected to be a practicable and valuable method for powering aerospace vehicles.

LIFE IN SPACE

THE London *Sunday Telegraph* on March 25, carried the following article by its Science Correspondent: "Evidence of life in space is mounting with new discoveries of what appear to be fossils in some meteorites.

"In this week's issue of the scientific periodical *Nature*, Dr G. Claus and Professor B. Nagy, of New York, claim to have found spiky particles like miniature sea urchins in two meteorites.

"A year ago they described particles they discovered in other samples of meteorite similar in size and shape to simple one-celled organisms found on earth. Most scientists thought the particles had either never been alive or were the remains of organisms which contaminated the meteorite after it reached the earth.

"The new evidence demolishes this argument, since one of the spiky 'fossils' was found embedded in a vein of salt inside the meteorite.

"Dr. Claus and Professor Nagy are supported by two New Zealand scientists who claim they have found similar fossil-like particles in another meteorite, which fell in New Zealand. But they concluded there was insufficient evidence to show definitely whether they were of animate or inanimate origin.

"On the other hand, a group of Chicago scientists trying to repeat Professor Nagy's observations on ground-up specimens of the same two meteorites have been unable to find any particles which look as though they might be fossils.

"But the possibility that Professor Nagy may really have discovered a fossil from space is now so considerable that leading scientists are giving it consideration. Professor J. D. Bernal, of Birkbeck College, London, suggests that, if the particles really are the remains of living things, we may be wrong in assuming that life was created on earth. It may have arrived in a meteorite."

BOOK REVIEW

The Great Flying Saucer Hoax (The UFO Facts and Their Interpretation) by Coral E. Lorenzen, director, the Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation; published by The William-Frederick Press, New York, N.Y., U.S.A. $4.45.

"Up the airy mountain,
Down the rushy glen,
We daren't go a-hunting
For fear of little men;"

but it was no fairy of fancy that set upon Jesus Paz, in San Carlos, Venezuela, as he got out of the car in order to relieve himself in the bushes. Attracted by his screams, his friends saw: "a short distance away a hairy-appearing little man was running toward a flat shiny object which hovered a few feet above the ground." It happened in 1954 and that year there were other little men at work in Venezuela—and in France: perhaps part of the expedition of one race surveying the earth for its possibilities.

This is a book to sober the starry-eyed because it gives abundant evidence that the visitors are about their own purposes, which include us out. They may even be hostile. "They came in numbers in 1947—two years after the explosion of the first three atomic bombs. Their survey started almost immediately thereafter; and was pursued as though the plan had been carefully worked out." Cars were halted, radios interrupted, a heat weapon was used: the Itaipu sentries "had first-degree and deep second-degree burns of more than 10 per cent. of the body—mainly on areas covered by clothing;" at the Texas army camp in the same month (November, 1957): "Tanks were vectored in, training their armaments on the object. Suddenly the men in the tanks came scrambling out—it had become unbearably hot. . . ." Power stations were put out of action (1959) and this was even predicted by Mrs. Lorenzen, based upon the pattern thus far established.

There is evidence that one or more groups of visitors are looking for bases, while testing out different methods of interfering with our sources of power. North-eastern Brazil, sparsely populated and difficult of access to earthly defenders, was shown by Dr. Fontes (FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, July-August, 1961, issue) to have been subjected in 1960 to orthotonic survey, particularly its communication centres. This form of survey is more specialised than the pattern which "suggests that the UFOs mapped the United States in those early years, progressing from mountain ranges to rivers, coastlines and eventually lakes."

Can there be any doubt that the U.S. military feared an invasion from outer space? *This* is why the debunking began—to prevent panic: and now the first untruth cannot be untold. Fifteen years later it may still come: they may be taking their time.

After Albert K. Bender, of Bridgeport, Conn., founder of the International Flying Saucer Bureau, had been visited and silenced by three men in September, 1953, he told his colleague Gray Barker (as the latter relates in *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers*): "Just as the three men who paid me a visit were leaving, one of them lingered for a moment and said, 'In our government we have the smartest men in the country. They can't find a defence for it. How can *you* do anything about it?'"

Does anyone doubt that people have been silenced? The evidence in this book is that both high and low have been suppressed. On page 73 is a quotation from Senator Russell's letter dated January 20, 1956, regarding sightings he was reported personally to have had while visiting Europe in late 1955: "I have discussed this matter with the affected agencies of the government and they are of the opinion that it is not wise to publicise this matter at this time." The Senator was then chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. On page 155 is a report by an investigator from the APR group of Seattle who visited a police chief on April 4, 1959, in order to receive information he promised by telephone; an Air Force colonel was there first and they waited and were then told by the police chief that he had nothing to say. Troops were moved in from Fort Lewis to interview residents of the area and instruct them not to discuss the crash. In Robert Gribble's words, "The citizens of the Sumner-Orting area are silent and scared. They know something is wrong, but they can't put a finger on it. The unlawful suppression of freedom of speech which occurs in cases like this is hard to believe and easy to dismiss as exaggeration when it happens to someone else. Where in the past many APR members were reluctant to believe such stories, they have now experienced such censorship first-hand. The impact of the realisation that such things can and do happen in this free country of ours is far from pleasant."

As for those who continue the debunking, Mrs. Lorenzen comments on page 225: ". . . if indeed censorship does exist it is at such high level that we researchers find it impossible to penetrate. Colonel Tacker believed what he wrote—word for word. After all, he was not an investigator or a first-hand expert on UFOs—he was simply the Air Force's number one ad man. He knew what the policy was and he adhered to it; that was his job."

HOAX (Webster): "A deception for mockery or mischief; a deceptive trick or story; a practical joke." The second meaning fits the facts, but why did Mrs. Lorenzen use this title? Was it fear of the censor?

As this is being written, Lon-

don news placards announce "Fares Storm Grows," "M.P.s Demand Answers," and it is hard to be patient with the long-suffering public. *Here* is what Members of Parliament should be asking about: if our civilisation were to understand and use the motive power of the saucers, travel and parking problems would disappear. Wake up, everyone!

There is so much in this book: new sightings, both circumstantial and spectacular; details of various types of craft; a disc only eight inches in diameter; Saturn-shaped discs of medium size; a short-cut cigar-shaped ship at least sixteen hundred feet long; heating and charring effects of ultrasonic vibrations; the Trinidad Island saucer in movement "like the flight of a bat;" the Reverend and Mrs. Lionel Browning comparing the motion of the discs they saw to "flat stones skipping along the water" (Kenneth Arnold described the motion of the nine discs he saw in 1947 over Mount Rainier as like "a saucer skipping across water"—hence the term flying saucer); sensations of "airlessness" and "pressure" before heavy atmospheric explosions possibly associated with the departure of large spacecraft at high altitudes; publicity in government and press of Brazil; illustrations and detailed analyses obtained by Dr. Fontes of the pure magnesium casing of an exploded disc—a freedom from impurities not then (1957) obtainable with this metal on earth.

In the early days of this subject, censorship had not acquired its subsequent control, as students will know from various reports already published. Here is another (p. 201): "In 1952 a young meteorologist told me that in 1948 at Wright Air Development Center (then Wright-Patterson Air Force Base), when he had stopped off en route to California, a buddy of World War II days had showed him space suits ranging from 3 to about 5½ feet in height and diagrams of a circular ship which bore a strong resemblance to a 'flying saucer.' He said that people who laughed about flying saucers were going to get a big jolt some day—these suits had been taken off the bodies of men who had apparently perished in the crash of their saucer-shaped ships."

Mrs. Lorenzen justifies her book's title as follows (p. 232): "The earth is being observed by intelligent beings from outer space, but information reaching the general public promotes an opposite impression.

A hoax has been perpetrated. We, the people, are the victims of that hoax.

And we, the people, in our eagerness to worship the orthodox and embrace mediocrity, have also served to perpetuate that hoax."

Wake up everyone!

—Our Reception Committee.

DISTURBING THOUGHTS

Amusingly, the Martians disturb the sleep and stable background of Professor Pickering; he disbelieves in them and their canals because he has discovered "canals" on the moon. Similarly, Professor Lowell derives much satisfaction from the belief that the moon is comfortably dead.

Indeed, writing in *Mars as the Abode of Life*, Professor Lowell displays even more naively the characteristics of the revolutionist-conservative. Of the Martians of the canal-building he says: "but body is the last thing we are likely to know of them."

It will probably be the first.

Hanno or the Future of Exploration

by J. Leslie Mitchell, 1928

IS THE UNIVERSE EXPANDING?

by Chrononaut

READERS who. like myself, have always disliked the theory of the expanding universe as contrary to nature, will remember Leonard G. Cramp's article in the May-June, 1960, issue "The Cosmos — Expanding or Orbital?" Commenting on the Hoyle (constant renewal by formations out of interstellar matter) versus Ryle (once-for-all explosion) theories about this expansion, Mr. Cramp offered the possibility that our solar system might be in a part of the universe that is accelerating in orbit round some unknown centre, "coming up the straight" so to speak, with the effect that everything in view ahead is going faster and everything behind not yet so fast, creating an illusion of expansion. This theory is more in accord with nature, as observed in the elliptical orbiting of planets about our own Sun.

However, the red shift in the spectrum — which gives the impression that the heavenly bodies are receding—may be capable of another explanation if the speed of light (or of those rays which are converted into light in the atmosphere of the planet) falls when reaching the denser atmosphere — as it falls again when traversing a liquid such as water. The following passage is from page 114 of *My Contact with Flying Saucers,* by Dino Kraspedon:

"We can see the same thing in the difference of the speed of light in the atmosphere and in water. It is only 140,000 miles per second in water, as opposed to 186,000 in the atmosphere. Therefore, density has a considerable effect on its speed. Light which becomes visible on reaching the Earth's surface reaches the etheric envelope of the Earth at a speed of 6,250,000 miles per second; and light that is above the visible spectrum on reaching the Earth arrives at far higher speeds. For the Sun emits its energy at various wavelengths and at different frequencies. Its emission is never uniform. We have reached a point where we can say that the light of the Sun exerts on Earth a pressure equal to the weight of light, measured at the Earth's surface, plus the energy lost in traversing the 400,000km. of etheric mass. If we consider that the effect is twofold, since this 'fatigue' of light is progressive or in geometrical progression, we can arrive at an approximate idea of what that means."

The next passage is from *Andromeda,* by Ivan Yefremov, a space-fiction tale set in the future by a popular contemporary Russian author, probably first produced as a serial in 1957:

"Astronomers in ancient days believed the galaxies to be moving apart. The light that reached terrestrial telescopes from distant stellar islands had been changed, light oscillations had lengthened, turning to red waves. This reddening of the light was taken as evidence that the galaxies were receding from the observer. . . . We now know why the light from these galaxies is red. As is usually the case in science there proved to be more than one cause—it is not only due to their recession from us. The only light that reaches us from distant stellar islands is that radiated by their brightest centres. These huge masses of matter are encircled by annular electro-magnetic fields that strongly affect light rays, not only by their intensity but also on account of the area they cover; they gradually slow down the light waves until they become longer red waves. In very ancient times astronomers knew that light from very dense stars turns red, the spectral lines shifting towards the red end, so that the star seems to be receding like, for example, the second component of Sirius, the white dwarf Sirius B. The farther away the galaxy, the more centralised is the radiation that reaches us and the stronger the concentration at the red end of the spectrum.

"During a very long journey through space light waves, on the other hand, are 'shaken up' and the light quanta lose part of their energy. This phenomenon has now been studied—the red waves may also be fatigued 'old' waves of ordinary light. Even light waves that penetrate everywhere 'grow old' from their journey over tremendous distances. . . ."

It would be interesting if one of my readers who is an astronomer would say whether there is such a thing as fatigue of light; whether it could account for the red shift in the spectrum and so eliminate the basis for the theory of an expanding universe and whether—if what passes for light in space travels much faster than 186,000 miles per second—the stars are not so far away as we thought.

Postscript. — Our contributor's theories received an unexpected endorsement in the London *Observer* for March 25. Its Science Correspondent quoted from a recent issue of *Nature* in which Dr. P. F. Browne, a physicist at the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington re-examined the phenomenon known as the "red shift." Dr. Browne challenged the interpretation on which was based the theory of an expanding universe and suggested instead that light becomes redder because it gets tired on its long journey.—Editor.

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

ENGLAND:

Isle of Man Mystery

In the early hours of Friday morning, January 5, at 1 a.m. to be exact, three boarding house keepers of Palace Terrace saw a very bright light high in the sky over Douglas Head. At first they thought it was an unusually large star but it was accompanied by the fluctuating sound of a motor. They investigated further with a powerful pair of binoculars and could see that the bright object, coloured red, blue and yellow was in the shape of an arrow.

"It was almost like a helicopter in shape and it was moving up and down to the accompaniment of this motor sound."

The strange sight and sound remained distinctly for an hour and a half—then suddenly it disappeared. It was very high in the sky and seen from Palace Terrace in the direction of Douglas Head but it could have been over the south of the Island.

Might we suggest a suitable "explanation" to the Air Ministry? Why not say it was either a very low meteor or a very high omnibus? The account is taken from the *Isle of Man Daily Times* for January 9.

Soon Answered

Writing to the London *Daily Telegraph* on March 23, Brigadier-General J. L. Jack, of the Old House, Kibworth, Leicestershire, complained that vast numbers of our fellow men were suffering from near starvation and that relief of their distress should come before the huge expenditure by a few wealthy nations on flights round our planet and proposed trips to the moon. He conceded that these explorations were scientifically valuable, though they wore the appearance of competition to break records and to outdo the performances of other nations.

The letter concluded with what must have been intended as a purely hypothetical question: "One may ask what our reactions would be to the unsolicited landings here of aeronautical capsules from other planets."

As it happens, we are able to answer Brigadier-General Jack with great confidence. The reactions of the majority on earth *are* that those who have seen these capsules are either suffering from some obscure form of insanity or have seen something other than that which they claim to have seen. Those who believe that the thousands of witnesses have, in fact, seen exactly what they say they saw are either mad themselves or are, for some undisclosed reason, perversely obstinate in clinging to a complete fallacy in the face of expert opinion that man is alone in the universe or, in the alternative, if intelligent beings do exist elsewhere that they couldn't have invented such a thing as a spaceship. In other words, that inter-planetary travel is a strictly one-way affair and what is not wanted just cannot exist. We shall be very pleased to answer any further questions that Brigadier-General Jack cares to ask.

Fireball? Meteorite? Foo Fighter?

The *Yorkshire Post* on March 15 reported that "a thing from outer space came to earth with a bang" the night before when a glowing red object hit the Nottingham-Newark diesel train at Carlton, near Nottingham. It crashed through a coach window and a passenger was showered with sparks and broken glass, but was unhurt. Passengers believe the object to be a meteorite.

Mr. Richard Pannell, of Trinity Road, Newark, who was sitting opposite, said: "I saw a glowing red object about the size of a cricket ball travelling at great speed in a wavering flight towards the train. When it hit the coach there was a noise like an explosion. An official at Nottingham Midland Station said: "We don't know whether it is a meteorite or not. It could have been simply something that was thrown at the train. But it is odd that nothing was found in the coach, no stone or anything like that."

Forteana

In addition to flying saucers, several items of Forteana have recently occurred at several widely separated places. On March 13, the London *Daily Telegraph* reported from Hobart, Tasmania that Mr. B. C. Mollison, an Australian scientist, had investigated a sea monster on a Tasmanian beach. "I think we have discovered something really strange, probably something never seen before by man," he said. "Heat makes no impression on it. There is no trace of vertebral structure and the flesh resembles very closely crayfish meat." This is an extraordinary admission for a scientist to make. It is very rare for one to admit that he hasn't some facile "explanation" for a mystery.

The London *Evening News* on March 9 reproduced an artist's impression of the object. It was 20 feet long and 4½ feet in height with a hump that tapers to the rear end. It weighed nearly

10 tons and resembles a giant turtle without legs. It has a rubbery skin, the report continues, of about 12 inches thick and is covered with a fine wool-like substance. It has no bones and no eyes. The object is still apparently impervious to decay, and we cannot wonder that the scientists have had to abandon all attempts to explain it away.

On March 12, the *Daily Telegraph* carried the following report: "A road victim found in Friern Road, East Dulwich, set the police an identity problem last night. It was a lizard-like four-footed animal, 3 feet long, weighing about 10 lb., sandy coloured, and with a black stripe along its back. The scaly-skinned creature had apparently been run over when David Jackson, 25, found it in the road outside his home. Police and RSPCA officials could not identify it. Therefore, following the advice given by a now deceased Astronomer Royal when similarly baffled, they decided to bury it.

On March 18, the London *Sunday Express* reported from Belgrade that yellow and red snow had fallen in Macedonia, Yugo-Slavia. Scientists believed that winds carried sand from the Sahara to colour the snow. Some scientists, it will be seen, are never baffled for long.

More from Luton

The following letter appeared in the *Luton News* on February 22: "Sir,—We were interested in the report of the flying saucer and bright light described in *The Luton News* last week.

"In the early hours of last Friday morning (February 9) my husband was wakened by a brilliant light shining through the tapestry curtains of our bedroom at the rear of the house. As we back on to a country lane, we normally see only dim reflections from the headlights of traffic passing along the road in front, with, of course, the accompanying noise of an engine. There was no sound in this case and my husband had time to expect the crash of an explosion in the few seconds during which the light was visible, but complete silence followed.

"I am not a sceptic myself, as about three years ago my attention was drawn by my 14-year-old nephew to a cigar-shaped object travelling through the sky above Waller Avenue. As it had neither wings nor tail fins we are both confident that we saw one of the flying saucers whose existence is doubted by even very intelligent people.—K. J. Taber (Mrs.), 42 Pirton Road, Luton."

February 9, it will be recalled, was the morning when Mr. Wildman sighted a flying saucer hovering above his car near Ivinghoe. On March 9, exactly four weeks later, the London *Evening News* reported that a mystery explosion rocked Luton in the early morning. A Luton police spokesman said: "We have had no reports to suggest what can have been responsible for the bang, but we are making a full investigation."

Northampton Mystery

The Northampton *Chronicle and Echo* on March 14, carried the following report: "An unidentified bluey-white light — 'much bigger and brighter than a shooting star' — with orange flames dropping from it was seen travelling through the sky in a northerly direction by a Little Houghton man just after 9.45 last night. He was Mr. Robert Deacon, of The Retreat, a member of the Royal Observer Corps during the war. He said the light grew bigger as it dropped, and eventually disappeared while still in mid-air.

"'The light was in a south-easterly direction from Little Houghton when I first saw it,' he said, 'but disappeared due east of the village.'

"He said that through all his experience of studying the night sky he had never seen anything so bright as this before. 'I thought at first it might have been an aircraft, but there was no sound with it. It was much bigger and brighter than a shooting star.'

"Mr. Deacon could not say how far away the object was. 'It may have been an extremely large object miles away or a small one comparatively near,' he said.

"Reports of a mystery object seen hurtling through the sky over London in a southerly direction by people living in the suburbs are given in the National Press today. Mr. Deacon commented: 'I don't think it could have been the same one. They were travelling in opposite directions.'"

(Credit to Mr. Geoffrey Peter Gayton.)

NORTHERN IRELAND: UFO lights up sky

The *Belfast Telegraph* reported in its January 13 issue:

"The people who saw an object light up the sky at 12.15 this morning are asked by Armagh Observatory to report on its height and direction. Said Mrs. J. McKee, of Cumberland Road, Dundonald: 'I was just pulling the curtains in my bedroom when the sky was lit up by the flying object. It lit up the whole room. It was like a flame across the sky, but lasted only five or six seconds.'

"A Carrickfergus pilot officer was also puzzled by the strange object. Policemen and some residents of Carrickfergus also reported the object, as did Groomsport Coastguard station on the other side of the lough.

"Signal Officer Thomas Mann, who lives at Downshire Gardens, Carrickfergus, was on duty in the pilot's hut at the end of Carrickfergus pier when the object appeared.

"'It flew past the look-out hut looking like an enlarged electric light bulb. It was white in the front and reddish at the back, with a 100-ft. long amber tail.

"'It was about half a mile out to sea and only about 80 ft. above the water. It was going like lightning and it lit the whole place up.'

"Mr. Mann said it was 'an awful looking thing.' He had been at sea for many years but had never seen anything like it

before. 'I don't know what it was unless it was one of these Russian machines or else a space-ship.'

"The local police rang him up after they had received reports from residents, while the coast-guard at Groomsport rang up to check if it had been seen on the Carrickfergus side of the lough. Two men at Saintfield who saw the object said it was 'a glowing white ball with a flame-like tail.'

"One of them said: 'To tell you the truth, I thought it was the end of the world.'

"A spokesman at Armagh Observatory said from reports he thought it was a fireball. 'We would like to have reports from people who saw this object,' he added.

"Dungannon residents also reported seeing the object."

The Armagh Observatory luckily had a conventionaliser on its staff. "It's a fireball," said Dr. E. M. Lindsay, according to a report in the *Belfast Telegraph* on January 15.

(Credit to Mr. Thomas Thompson, of Bangor, Co. Down.)

SOUTH AFRICA:

Potchefstroom Mystery

The *Potchefstroom Nuus* on February 2 reported:

"A strange object which he saw in the sky north of Potchefstroom at 10.30 on Monday (January 22) night, is reported by Mr. Nic Beukes, projectionist at a Potchefstroom cinema. The object, he told the *Potchefstroom News*, was like a large star, red in colour with a greenish fringe. It disappeared while he watched it and then reappeared some seconds later and again vanished. His assistant, whom he told to watch for it, again spotted it and kept it in view until it finally vanished into the distance. To a question whether he heard the sound of engines of an aircraft, Mr. Beukes replied that it was too far away for that. A spokesman for the military training camp, told of the occurrence and asked if it could have been a plane, said: 'We have nothing here that could account for it.'"

On February 9, the *Potchefstroom Nuus* returned to the subject: "Following on a report last week by Mr. N. Beukes, a cinema projectionist, that he and his assistant had seen a strange object in the sky . . . comes a report of two pupils at the Potchefstroom High School for Boys, I. Miller and Colin West, that they saw a similar object in the sky on Sunday night (January 21) at about 9.30. Their story tallies in certain details with that of Mr. Beukes. Both accounts say that the object was red in colour and changed to green and that the 'light' went on and off. In both cases there was no noise and the object was visible for a spread-over of about ten minutes. Mr. Beukes's observation synchronised with a similar report made to a Pretoria newspaper by a soldier who lives at Valhalla. He scorned the idea of what he saw being an aircraft, and a spokesman at the Potchefstroom military camp declared that the military were not responsible for whatever Mr. Beukes had seen."

Pretoria Puzzle

According to the *Pretoria News* for January 18, ". . . a bright moving object which circled the sky was seen by nine people at Broederstroom, 30 miles from Pretoria, last night. Reports of a similar object moving low above the horizon were recently received from people on the Rand. Mr. Arthur Pretorius, a farmer at Broederstroom, told a representative of the *Pretoria News* . . . that he and his family saw the object for the first time on Tuesday night (January 16). They watched again last night (January 17) and it reappeared at more or less the same time. 'My son, Bertie, who was going to bed at nine o'clock on Tuesday night saw a bright moving object. It moved in a northerly direction, suddenly stopped and turned back again, moving southwards. It then remained stationary for a considerable time before moving and disappearing from sight.' The following night Mr. Pretorius and his family and five other friends watched for the object. It appeared at the same place in the sky. 'Last night, however, there was a continuous droning sound far off,' Mr. Pretorius said. 'The object was not an aeroplane as it remained stationary in the sky for as long as ten minutes at one stage. Also, it shone like an exceptionally bright star at times, and at others seemed to be dull.'"

Pretoria again

On January 23, the *Pretoria News* reported another sky mystery: "A dull orange object which appeared three times at almost the same point in the sky between 7.45 and 9 p.m. last night puzzled Pretoria people who watched it. Staff-Sgt. J. P. du Toit, who has been in the Defence Force for several years, was so intrigued by the 'fantastic performance' of the object that he telephoned the *Pretoria News* this morning. 'I know a good deal about aircraft,' he said, 'and this object was certainly not an aeroplane. All planes have the usual two identification lights, and this object did not. Moreover, it made no sound.'

"A farmer in the Broederstroom district recently described to the *Pretoria News* an object he and other people had seen in the sky. The position of the object last night was almost in a line with the position indicated by the farmer.

"Staff-Sgt. Du Toit, who lives at Valhalla, said he and his wife were sitting on the verandah of their home at about 7.45 when a dull orange object suddenly appeared west of the Swartkop control tower. It moved slowly at first and then suddenly darted swiftly across the sky like a falling star. It disappeared from sight for about 12 minutes, and then suddenly reappeared in almost the same place it had first come from. 'This time, however, its colour changed from orange to a pinkish-red shade,' he said. 'It stood still for a while, then moved slowly and once again suddenly fell and disappeared.'

The performance was repeated once again before the object disappeared for the last time at about nine o'clock. Staff-Sgt. Du Toit's 13-year-old daughter, Ingrid, was one of the most enthusiastic watchers last night. The family intends to look for the object again tonight at the same time. It was seen by other families in the neighbourhood."

(Credit for the above three reports goes to our reader Mr. Philipp J. Human, of Umkomaas, Natal.)

Strange lights over Kimberly

We are indebted to Mr. Philipp J. Human for the translation of the following account which is taken from *Die Vaderland*, Wednesday, February 21:

"Three strange objects were seen in the sky above Kimberley by a number of residents at 1.05 this morning. Seven railwaymen who were on night duty at the Alexanderfontein shunting ground near the airport, saw the objects travelling through the sky from the south. Two of these persons, Mr. W. P. Steyn, of 14 Compound Road, and Mr. S. Jooste, of 18 Silson Road, said that they saw three bright objects appearing from the south. They looked like rockets, but travelled horizontally. Two were smaller than the third and seemed to leave a trail of sparks behind.

"The third and largest object seemed to become illuminated just before disappearing as if it had exploded. There was no sound.

"Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Human, of 6 Barnato Road, Hadison Park, also saw these objects. They appeared from a southerly direction and were very high. Mr. Human states that the two smaller objects left a trail behind, and seemed to travel a short distance ahead of the bigger one. The latter seemed to be placed in the centre of the other two.

"The smaller objects disappeared, but the third one, which was as broad as the rainbow, suddenly gave a flash just before disappearing."

(Mr. Philipp J. Human writes to explain that the Mr. and Mrs. Human referred to are namesakes and not relations.)

AUSTRALIA:

Somerton Mystery

A Somerton man has reported seeing mysterious flying objects over the Adelaide Hills at 6.15 p.m. on Sunday, November 19. He is Mr. Guy Page, of Somerton, an amateur astronomer.

"There was a cluster of about six to eight objects, due east of Somerton. They were crescent-shaped and travelling at high speed," Mr. Page said today.

"I had binoculars trained on the Adelaide Hills when they came into sight. They were not visible with the naked eye. I watched them for about ten minutes before they disappeared into cloud."

Mr. Page reported the sighting to the Bureau of Meteorology, but said he was mystified as "what I saw definitely wasn't a weather balloon. I didn't report this before because if you do people seem to think you're a crackpot. But when I read where two policemen saw something yesterday, I decided to report it."

[Two police constables reported on November 2 seeing an unidentified flying object while on duty in the Adelaide Hills.]

Mr. Page should be told it is no use arguing with a Bureau of Meteorology. He may have seen what they didn't, but they know what he hadn't. (Account taken from the *Adelaide News*, issue of November 22, 1961.)

NEW ZEALAND:

Greymouth Incident

We are indebted to Miss Aileen O'Donel for sending us the enclosed cutting from *The Press* of February 3:

"Two men fishing off the 17-Mile Rock between Greymouth and Westport had an unusual sight at 8.15 o'clock tonight (February 2).

"Messrs. Norman Darney and Joseph Howard, of Runanga, said that a bright red ball-shaped object with a white cone emitting a bright blue flame appeared from the western horizon and disappeared over Canterbury. Mr. Darney said it was the size of a small house. He estimated the height at 20,000 feet.

"Both he and Mr. Howard had a very clear view of the object in the cloudless sky. Mr. Darney said he was anxious to know whether any other persons had seen the object on the West Coast, or in other parts of New Zealand. He said the object was travelling at 'terrific' speed."

Brilliant sky object

This report, kindly sent to us by Mr. V. E. J. Allan, is taken from the Dunedin *Evening Star* of February 6:

"A mysterious bright, bullet-like object flashed across the New Plymouth sky on Sunday night. Local fishermen who watched the object for about ten seconds said that it was definitely not a falling star or comet. Mr. H. Edwards, who was fishing off rocks near the New Plymouth Railway Station, said the object scorched a path from north-west to south.

"'It was a brilliant object and appeared from nowhere. It looked like the front of a bullet, being mostly white with a reddish tinge in front,' he said. 'I have seen falling stars and comets before and this object did not resemble either. It was quite big and was falling at a terrific speed.'

"Mr. Edwards said the object had a short tail and as it disappeared it flickered. Another fisherman, who was fishing in the same spot, described the object as a 'round white ball.'"

SOUTH AMERICA:

UFO causes death

The *UFO Investigator* for January-February reports that at Santa Rita, Venezuela, a fisherman drowned when he and panic-stricken companions jumped from their boats as a huge, glowing

object approached. The incident occurred on October 6, 1961, at about 11 p.m. An enormous UFO appeared from the north, its glow lighting up the town. As it slowly crossed Lake Maracaibo, casting its glare on the fishing boats, dozens of terrified fishermen leaped overboard. One man, Bartolme Romero, went down in the frantic swim for safety. The others made shore, unnerved by the encounter.

In Santa Rita itself, alarmed inhabitants watched the strange object pass slowly over the city. The UFO was visible five minutes before it vanished to the south, leaving a reddish, exhaust-like trail. As the *UFO Investigator* points out, the slow movement rules out any fireball or meteor answer.

U.S.A:

Earth calling all worlds

The London *Daily Express* reported in its February 5 issue:

"A secret meeting of top U.S. scientists to discuss the possibility of communicating with other worlds was disclosed today (February 4). Some of them consider it a strong possibility that messages from beyond the solar system are impinging upon the earth. The question is how and where to look for them.

"Among those who attended the meeting at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory was Dr. Melvin Calvin who has just been awarded the Nobel Prize for chemistry.

"The *New York Times*, which revealed the meeting today, reported:

"'At least one participant in the talks, Dr. Philip Morrison, Professor of Physics at Cornell University, believes that if the world survives its present crisis, a large part of human effort may go into trying to establish contact with remote civilisations.' But Dr. Edward M. Purcell, professor of physics at Harvard, was convinced that journeys to other planetary systems 'Belong right where they are—on cereal boxes.'

"Some scientists came away with the conviction that two important steps must be carried out as a prelude to any major listening programme, the newspaper said:

"'ONE: To demonstrate the existence of life elsewhere in the solar system. TWO: To show that there are planets in orbit around nearby stars.'

"Both of these are thought to be within the grasp of present technology."

A 30-mile chase

The *UFO Investigator* for January-February reports that a Mr. and Mrs. Richard DuBois, of 13481 Shirley Street, Westminster, California, were returning home on the night of October 21 from a holiday and were driving along Route 60 in New Mexico and that apart from their car the highway was deserted. It was about 2 a.m. when a brilliant ball of white light flashed down across the car, slowed, then turned back and followed alongside. "At first, I thought it was an airplane making an emergency landing," said Mrs. DuBois. The strange ball, however, streaked back into the sky. The witnesses conjectured that it might be an odd moonlight reflection but soon had to discard that explanation, for the bright object again flashed down, racing ahead of the car, then slowed to let them catch up.

"We were really frightened by this time," Mrs. DuBois said. Their alarm increased when the strange device pacing them suddenly separated into four smaller, glowing objects. Flying alongside, the formation kept pace with the car until a service station appeared ahead. When DuBois slowed down, the four UFOs flashed upward and went out of sight. When the terrified couple told their friends of their experience they were laughed at.

Another close approach to a car was reported on September 19-20, 1961, in New Hampshire, when a Mr. and Mrs. Barney Hill while driving around midnight saw a bright object in the sky. Using his binoculars he saw a band of light, convex as if on the edge of a flattened disc. The object seemed to be rotating.

Moon war warning

The London *Daily Telegraph* on March 17 reported from New York: "Mr. Dandridge Cole, a leading space scientist, believes that if the Russians reach the moon first they might shoot down American spaceships trying to land. He told the Institute of Aero-Space scientists in Los Angeles that if Russia set up bases at each lunar pole and four around the equator they could then lay claim to the whole moon.

"Protests at the shooting down would carry no more weight than in previous cases when our aircraft had been shot down. A retaliatory attack against their moon bases would be aggression in the eyes of the world and might well lead to nuclear war."

Our advice is not to worry. Space travel will probably broaden the mind.

RUSSIA:

Venus life clue

According to the London *Daily Telegraph*, March 20, reporting from Moscow, Professor Vladimir Prokoviev of the Crimea astrophysical laboratory, nitrogen has been found in the upper atmosphere of the planet Venus — a pointer to organic life existing on that planet.

Soviet Saucers

In June, *Zuercher Woche* (Switzerland) published an objective article with the title "Soviet Russia and the Riddle of the Flying Saucers." Among many other features the article mentions the Russian astronomer Basykin, of the Moscow Observatory, who gives it as his opinion that "it is by no means impossible that such phenomena exist and have existed for a long time. It is only recently that man has started observing the heavens constantly with highly developed instruments."

Mention is also made of the Russian theory that the two moons of Mars are artificial satellites.

(Acknowledgements to *Prediction*, February, 1962, issue.)

PUBLICITY

IN the March-April issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW we called for a redoubled effort to break the silence barrier in the Press. As the REVIEW was being prepared for press, two events occurred as if in answer to this appeal, Mr. Ronald Wildman's sighting at Ivinghoe on February 9 attracted a number of well-considered reports in both local and national newspapers. On February 17, the London *Daily Telegraph* printed at the head of its correspondence column a forceful letter from Mr. Charles Gibbs-Smith, Companion of the Royal Aeronautical Society and Director of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. On February 19 his letter (which we reproduce below) was very favourably commented on by James Cameron, the well-known feature writer, in the London *Daily Mail* on February 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THIS YOUNG WORLD

Why Not "Saucers" from Older Ones?

SIR—I was sorry to see that your leader on the so-called "Flying Saucers" seemed to follow the United States Air Force report in ruling out the possibility that some of these objects are intelligently manned or controlled machines from civilisations outside our own earth.

There are good grounds for believing that the United States Air Force has reasons of its own for the sweeping statements it makes from time to time; an attitude, interestingly enough, not shared by the United States Navy.

As an aeronautical historian I have for long been in the difficult position of attempting to weigh the evidence on "saucers" from a far wider field than the United States. From the case histories provided by such reliable men as Aimé Michel in France, Prof. Tombaugh and Donald Keyhoe in America (despite the latter's somewhat emotional style of writing), and many others I am convinced that a court of law—if faced by such in a trial—would be forced to rule that, on overwhelming evidence, intelligently controlled space-ships of the kind do exist.

I would estimate roughly that some 95 per cent.—perhaps more—of sightings the world over are bogus, either unwittingly or intentionally; but there is a small residue that neither the United States Air Force nor anyone else can explain away.

Many of the sceptics, apart from their disillusionment by the lunatic fringers, find it too unpalatable to realise that ours is probably a very young and very second-rate civilisation compared with the countless civilisations which most reputable astronomers are now confident exist "out there." We are, let us face it, a conceited pack of scamps with our miserable few thousand years of ascendancy over the beasts and our slavery to a life-span based on our turns round the sun.

Powered aviation on this earth is only just over half a century old; manned rocketry has only just arrived; electronics is only just coming of age; atomic physics has just had time to frighten us; and electro-gravitics are only now struggling into existence.

What, Sir, would we have to say about beings who may have had rocketry and electro-gravitics for two millennia, or 200 millennia if it comes to that; who may well have attained missile speeds near the speed of light, and whose average life-span runs into hundreds of years instead of a few decades?

To the facile conclusions of Government agencies—in the United States and elsewhere—the historian can only cry caution, and warn against the natural fear and arrogance of our own species.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES H. GIBBS-SMITH.
Royal Aero Club, W.1.

Photograph of Mr. Charles Gibbs-Smith's letter in the *Daily Telegraph,* **February 17, 1962.**

For nearly a fortnight, the *Daily Telegraph* published a number of letters on the subject of UFOs. Only two could be called favourable to the subject, but it was refreshing to have the subject aired at all in such a widely circulating and responsible journal. It was most noticeable that those who wrote in opposition to Mr. Gibbs-Smith seemed to be completely unaware of the evidence to which he referred. In fact, several of the letters cancelled themselves out. One correspondent, for instance, cast doubt on the existence of UFOs because they had been coming here for so long and their behaviour failed to meet his requirements. Another writer found he was unable to believe in them because their visits, he declared, had started only recently and at the same time as our own space adventures! All attempts to supply the facts and to demonstrate the illogicality of most of the opposition's arguments were ignored by the Editor of the *Daily Telegraph*. But adverse publicity is better than none and, aggravating as it is to have to listen to an opponent without being able to answer back, it is consoling to know that it is possible to break into print on the subject. It is still too early, apparently, to expect fair play.

Following the events recorded above, T.W.W. (Television West and Wales) approached the Editor of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for an interview on their "Here Tonight" programme on February 27. Not unexpectedly, the major point raised was the recent United States Air Force release on the subject. The answer given to this question was to have reproduced on the screen the chart issued by the United States Navy which depicts hostile and unidentified objects (see

(*Continued on page 3 of cover.*)

SAUCERS OVER THE ARGENTINE

Cigars and discs sighted

by Fidel A. Cappa

The following account is taken from a letter which Mr. Cappa addresed to the Editor of the *R.A.F. Flying Review* and which was kindly forwarded to us as being more appropriate to the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. Mr. Cappa's letter also mentions that as a result of the publicity which was afforded this incident, requests for further interviews, in the press and on television, have been received by Mr. Vallejos, one of the witnesses to the sighting.

I WORK as interpreter-translator for an American company engaged in the construction of the Argentine Steel Plant, in the City of San Nicolás, province of Buenos Aires and I live in the nearby village which provides housing for the personnel working in the plant, about two miles from the plant; my two friends are Mr. S. C. Monserrat, who does the same job in the same company, and Mr. J. O. Vallejos, who works for the Steel Plant (Sociedad Mixta Siderurgia Argentina).

We stood late on Saturday night and Sunday morning (October 14 and 15, 1961) and went to visit another friend's home, and we started arguing about some pre-war problems with our host, Mr. Della Zota, an Italian engineer, and about ten to four a.m. we left the house, heading for Mr. Monserrat's, who lives around the block. After walking some fifty or sixty yards, Mr. Monserrat, who for some reason or another was looking up to the sky exclaimed in a very excited voice: "Look up!" We looked up to the sky and we saw two strange things right over our heads. The whole night the sky had been completely overcast with a compact ceiling of clouds at approximately a height of 3,000 feet. The clouds were dimly illuminated with a ghostly light by the plant's blast furnace and by the flame from the gas bleeding stack. These two strange things were quite big and of an odd cigar shaped form. They remained completely still, parallel to each other in a west-east position. The shapes emitted a yellow light, dimming down to a reddish tint at the edges. At the time, it appeared that these two objects were at approximately the same height as the clouds, or somewhat higher. The one at our right remained for only two minutes. I say two minutes, counting up from the time when we first saw them, which was eight minutes to four a.m. up to six minutes to four a.m. when it disappeared upwards in the clouds. We could not distinguish any rearward or forward motion. After this we started to walk, always looking up to the sky, till we reached Mr. Monserrat's house. Mr. Monserrat went inside his house and we remained on the sidewalk, by his garden door, still looking up to the sky till the second shape also disappeared in the same way as the first one, at two minutes past four a.m. This second one was clearly visible for ten minutes. We remained talking and guessing what it could be for quite a while. My first thought when we saw them was that they could be rockets, but immediately I changed my opinion because there was no motion at all. Besides, I must tell you that there are no Air Force bases in this zone, and there has been tested for the first time in Argentina a missile prototype in February of last year, and the second was launched last week (the Beta-Centauro type) approximately October 25, 1961, in Pampa de Achala, province of Cordoba.

After a while, Mr. Vallejos, the other friend of mine, with whom I was talking in the street, hurriedly and very excitedly called my attention to look southward. There, apparently flying below the clouds, and from a south-west to north-east direction appeared a formation of disc-shaped objects, with a very light greenish-grey light. I would say that there were from nine or ten up to fifteen discs, flying like a well-ordered airplane formation. We could not count them up, so the quantity is only estimated, neither could we estimate the speed they were flying at; I would only say that they were flying very fast. When they were almost gone I called up Mr. Monserrat who was still inside the

house, and when he came out he could only see some tiny cloud in the far-away horizon. This sighting was at eight minutes past four a.m. for approximately ten to fifteen seconds. This time we were all very excited and we decided to continue the watch from my house, which is only three blocks from Mr. Monserrat's. In the meantime, the other two boys went out to the garden once in a while to see if there was anything else. A few minutes later the three of us were outside, and at 4.29 a.m. we were lucky to see again, and for the last time, another formation of these discs. They were flying quite far to the south, in a south-west north-east direction. This formation was of approximately the same quantity as before, with a bright individual light, and flying apparently faster than before. They were flying in good order as before, in the same formation. This time, also, they disappeared in the Steel plant direction.

My friends, individually, made a report of the sightings to several newspapers, particularly to *La Capital* of Rosario, *La Prensa* of Buenos Aires and *La Razon* also of Buenos Aires. Up to now only the article sent by Mr. Vallejos to *La Razon* has been published.

I must also quote that, according to what we heard, several other people saw the same thing at approximately the same time, but unluckily we do not know them. With the exception of another person, Mr. Barba, who also works in the plant for another American company, and with whom we will try to make contact. I am afraid we will not be able to identify the others.

Southampton mystery lights

A GREAT deal of speculation has been caused recently in the Southampton area. The story can be told best from the series of cuttings which Mr. Peter Kelly has sent us. They are all from the *Southern Daily Echo*.

January 13: "A greenish-blue blob of light, something like a Roman candle star, was seen by Mr. P. J. Kelly, of Hythe, moving across the sky in a N.E. direction about 12.30 a.m. today. Mr. Kelly noticed the light at about 5,000 feet as he was looking towards Southampton. The light was in his view for about six or seven seconds and then it disappeared, possibly behind a cloud.

"He is convinced it was not an aircraft and wondered whether anyone else saw the strange light."

January 15: "A strang, fast-moving object in the sky on Saturday (January 13) has been attracting more attention.

"One of the first calls to the *Echo* today came from Mr. Thomas Hutton, who like Mr. P. J. Kelly (reported in Saturday's *Echo*), had seen a 'brilliant green light' in the sky at about 4.40 p.m.

"Mr. Hutton, who was with Mr. Paul Holloway at Fair Oak, said the object appeared to be descending south-west. There was no aircraft about and he thought it might have been a meteorite burning itself out. 'We were rather startled, particularly by its colour,' he said."

January 16: "I was interested to see in Saturday's (January 13) *Echo* a news item referring to a greenish-blue blob of light seen in the sky from Hythe. That same afternoon after a visit to Portsmouth to see the game against Queen's Park Rangers I observed a green light moving across the sky which was in my view for a second or two only before disappearing from sight behind a building.

"The light was moving in a southerly direction and was seen at about 4.35 p.m. I was unable to estimate its height or speed.—C. L. Newton, (Pinehurst Cottage, 12 Basett Row, Southampton)."

January 17: "I should like to confirm Mr. P. J. Kelly's report on sighting a strange bluish light in the sky on Saturday morning (January 13), and described in the *Echo* that night.

"I saw the light for about five seconds as it flashed across the sky at terrific speed. It appeared to be low in the sky and most unlike a shooting star.

After reading another report in Tuesday's (January 16) *Echo* of a similar occurrence later on Saturday, my interest has been further aroused.—G. Ferris (4 Mayflower Road, Shirley, Southampton)."

"While walking in Highfield at 11.50 p.m. on Saturday (January 13) I was surprised to see a bright object similar to a star, moving swiftly across the sky over Southampton in a south-westerly direction at about 5,000 ft.

"I saw it for about four seconds and then suddenly it disappeared in spite of a clear sky.

"Could there be any connection between this light and the one described in Saturday evening's *Echo* as having been seen by a correspondent at Hythe? I also am convinced it was not an aircraft.—William Barff (Meadow Cottage, 48 Blenheim Avenue, Southampton)."

January 19: "These lights in the sky . . . another one was seen last night just after 10 o'clock by Mr. P. House, of Redhill Crescent, Bassett, Southampton, in Burgess Road, Southampton.

"'Quite fantastic; I was rather shaken,' said Mr. House today.

"The light, bluish, 'as big as a football,' was travelling south very fast indeed. The watcher had it in view for about three seconds.

"The light was first reported last week from Hythe, although then it was at a different time and travelling in a different direction."

January 22: "With reference to the strange bluish light seen in the sky over Southampton by your readers, it is, I expect, the Echo satellite. It is visible for a few seconds on most days, and on Thursday (January 18) evening should have been visible at 7.5 p.m., but did not appear until 7.10 p.m. Then it was clearly seen for about half-a-minute moving at a very fast speed.—Mr. G. Yeates (20 Terrace Road, Newport, I.o.W.)."

Mr. Peter Kelly comments in a letter to the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW that the light was many times brighter than Venus and was travelling in a north-west direction. Its estimated angular speed was about 10°-15° per second. When the object was making an angle of about 45° to the observer Mr. Kelly must unfortunately have quite unintentionally have given the incorrect direction to the reporter. When Mr. Kelly saw *The Times* report the following day (Saturday, January 14) he thought that what he had seen must have been the Cumberland meteorite which had crashed to the ground. (Cumberland is north-west of Southampton).

Mr. Kelly also makes the point in his letter that a curious feature of his sighting was the sudden disappearance of the object. Although he offered the suggestion that it might have been occluded by a cloud, in fact it was a clear night: when one is puzzled, the mind seeks for a possible explanation. Mr. William Barff's sighting, as reported on January 17, mentions the condition of a clear sky. Mr. Kelly points out that Mr. Yeates's "explanation" that the object was the Echo satellite (see his letter under January 22) is contradicted by dates and times. The meteor explanation is also suspect and readers may care to refer to the article "Meteorites?" on page 14.

Double Talk from the United States Air Force

WE are indebted to Mr. James D. Wardle for sending us a cutting from the front page of the *Salt Lake Tribune* of October 3, 1961. It is heartening evidence of the return of the saucers to the headlines, which read: "'Saucer' Soars in S.L. Sky: Disc eludes Pilot After Fast Chase." Our readers will know that the saucers themselves have never ceased to be seen in the skies, but those who rely on the newspapers may be excused for thinking that the UFOs had disappeared for good.

The incident occurred on October 9, 1961, when Mr. Waldo J. Harris, a Salt Lake real estate and insurance salesman, sighted a UFO while he was preparing to take off on a flight from the Utah Central Airport. At first he thought the object was another airplane, but Mr. Harris added: "When I was airborne I was surprised to find the object was still in the same position as when I had first sighted it." He decided to investigate. "I changed my heading," he continued, "and flew toward what appeared to be a large disc, hovering with a rocking motion at an altitude of between 6,500 and 7,000 feet." Mr. Harris then radioed back to the airport, who confirmed that they, too, could see the object. Mr. Harris described the object as a light grey disc which he estimated to measure at least 50 feet across and about four feet thick at its widest point. "There were no openings visible," Mr. Harris declared, "no vapour trail or exhaust smoke, yet I am sure it was a controlled craft. . . ." After hovering, it moved straight up, then began to move west at an extremely accelerated rate of speed and disappeared within a few seconds. Several witnesses at the airport watched the incident through binoculars for more than 15 minutes. One of these witnesses, a Mr. Redmond, reported that "whatever it was seemed to be rocking while hovering almost stationary just south of the field. At times, as it turned, it almost looked like a zeppelin." The witnesses all agreed that when the object moved, it was at a terrific rate of speed.

Another significant aspect of this sighting is that when U.S. Air Force officials began investigating the matter they made no attempt to brush it aside or to explain it away. They declared instead that it was "undoubtedly the best report we have had of 'unidentified objects' in the area —one not identifiable as either an Echo satellite, a meteorite or a manned aircraft." This is the second time recently that U.S. Air Force spokesmen have allowed themselves a frank expression of opinion—our readers will recall Dr. Hyneck's remarks about the much more controversial Joe Simonton affair (see FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, November-December, 1961 issue). Does this represent a change of attitude on the part of the American authorities? How do they reconcile this open-minded approach with the closed-mind findings of the officially sponsored book by Lt.-Col. Lawrence J. Tacker? And what about the even more recent U.S.A.F. blanket dismissal of saucers last February?

MAILBAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Trevor James and the Infra-red

Sir,—Trevor James, in his article "The Case for Contact" (January-February, 1962, issue), writes: "Yet the writer (James) with a specialised use of high-speed infra-red film, and methods stemming from occult science, recorded such a creature (a giant serpent in the sky) twice in succession in the heart of a California business district at noon. The creature was physical and objective; the photographs proved that. Yet it was quite invisible to the perception of dozens of factory workers who walked 20 feet beneath it. . . ."

Fortean devotees know that according to many and reliable witnesses all kinds of animals and even armies have been seen in the sky. The question is: Were these things really objectively there? Terrestrial pyrotechnists, as every child knows, can spark up the air with the *image* of a president, etc. Why can't the inter-planetarians who undoubtedly are way ahead of us in technology do as much? Why can't they go a step further and make this image "dead" to our retinas, but alive to, say, an infra-red film? An Austrian physicist years ago with some device gradually rendered a woman invisible to the spectators. But the fact that Mr. Trevor James used "occult science" leads me to believe that there was absolutely nothing objective there in the sky, not even a physical image. He imagined the giant serpent and the resultant electro-magnetic waves, bombarding the film, impressed upon it a replica of his *mental* image.—The Rev. Guy J. Cyr, S.M., Sacred Heart Rectory, 321 South Broadway, Lawrence, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Moon valleys

Sir,—I think you may be interested in the report headed "Features of the Lunar Crater Aristarchus" by R. A. McIntosh, in the current issue of the Journal of the British Astronomical Association.

Consideration is given to the dark "bands" which radiate from the floor of the crater and in some cases extend for some distance beyond the eastern rim. Mr. McIntosh has these comments to make as to their nature. He has noticed that the "bands" appear faint and ill-defined whereas in between, elliptical convex objects emanate brilliantly and clear-cut under the rising Sun, reducing the "bands" to less prominence.

"The changing configuration of the shadows of the walls within the inner portion of Aristarchus under many angles of illumination taking into consideration the angle of the Sun's altitude has caused the writer to come to the conclusion that the 'bands' are in fact *valleys consisting of dark material* which lie between and around the bright convex areas. The valley centres are estimated to lie about 10^3 ft. below the rims of the convexities and the latter, which must be roughly circular in outline, would, if laid flat, have their centres some 10^3 ft. higher than their rims."

The foregoing is a summary of the report on the observations by R. A. McIntosh and the conclusions which were later formulated.

However, McIntosh stated further that this explanation became obvious to him way back in 1952 and he was surprised that the shape of the shadow had been overlooked by other observers.

The reason why the announcement of this discovery was withheld is due to the lack of confirmation from other sources. But in the meantime, Brian Warner, F.R.A.S., in 1959, noticed a very similar phenomena in other craters which included the "bands," and a comment on the importance of this discovery was made by the new Lunar Section Director, Dr. G. Fielder.

If one goes back to reading George Adamski's book *Inside the Spaceship,* where Mr. Adamski himself was in a mother ship observing the Moon at comparatively close proximity; the remark that several of the craters were, in fact, valleys consisting of thick vegetation should, in fact, be carefully noted. The dark material inside the valleys were not accounted for by McIntosh, but it is highly likely that this material was, in fact, vegetation. The various reports of colour glows, including green, reported by observers and included in the books on the Moon written by Firsoff, Wilkins, Moore and Fielder goes a long way to substantiating this idea.—S. R. Stebbing, Editor *Space Review,* 2 Station Road, Frimley, Surrey.

Unscientific?

Sir,—If Mr. Wade Wellman represents the scientist's approach to our problems, then we must reluctantly seek other means to ascertain the truth. He makes three assumptions in the course of his article and two of them are contested by other scientists and the third has not one iota of evidence in its support. As you, sir, have pointed out on more than one occasion, astronomers are divided on the question as to whether there could be life on Mars or Venus. Mr. Wellman has made up his mind by preferring those authorities who say there is not. Forced into the depths of space to find a home for the saucers, he has to invoke time dilatation — which Mr. Wellman himself admits is a theory — to shorten the journey for his space travellers. That is his second assumption.

Mr. Wellman thinks that human beings like ourselves are unlikely in the hypothetical home of the flying saucers. He is therefore faced with the problem of the Papuan occupants so convincingly described by Father Gill and others. He then makes his third guess. There might have been human "prisoners" observed when they were in a carefree mood helping their captors with some running repairs. To such absurdities can the scientific mind be driven. Would it not be more comfortable for Mr. Wellman if he were to reconsider his premise — that Mars and Venus cannot support intelligent life?—Arthur M. Musgrove, Waterloo, Liverpool.

Menzel

Sir, — In a recent issue you commented on the definition given in *Pears' Cyclopaedia*. I thought you might like to know of the account in the McGraw-Hill *Encyclopaedia of Science and Technology*, 1960, Volume 5, p. 363.

Under the heading "Flying Saucers" a full page is given on the subject. The author is Professor Donald H. Menzel, and you can guess the contents. Also included is a bibliography. It consists of just one book: I leave it to you to guess which.—C. D. Allan, 300 Foleshill Road, Coventry.

(*Continued from page* 28.)

World Round Up feature in the November - December, 1961, issue). Also shown to the viewers was the "orthotenic" map linking Italy, France and England which was reproduced in our March-April issue.

All this publicity was triggered off by Mr. Gibbs-Smith's letter. We would repeat that the best way to deal with the silence barrier is to break it.

Photograph of United States Navy's recognition chart to be posted in Radio Room and on the Bridge. (First reproduced in the July - August, 1961, issue of the *UFO Investigator*, published by the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) of Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

READERS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Enquiries which we have recently instigated have shown us that our readership is very much larger than we had suspected. It would seem that six or even a dozen people often read each copy of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and we know of at least two cases where the figure is nearer twenty. While this is extremely gratifying—our main objective is, of course, to bring the subject to the notice of as many people as possible—might we remind those of our readers who are not subscribers that we are as exposed to the commercial hazards of publishing as any other periodical and must pay our printers' bills and necessary overheads? Until we can attract advertising we are dependent almost wholly on subscriptions. Our readership has noticeably increased during recent months. May we appeal to as many of our new readers as possible to become subscribers, too?

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The following issues can still be supplied, but readers are advised to make early application, as in many cases only a few copies remain.

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1956—Volume II:	All issues out of print.
1957—Volume III:	No. 6 only available.
1958—Volume IV:	Nos. 4, 5 and 6 only available.
1959—Volume V:	No. 1 out of print.
	No. 2 available.
	No. 3 available.
	No. 4 out of print.
	No. 5 available.
	No. 6 available.
1960—Volume VI:	All issues available.
1961—Volume VII:	All issues except No. 1 available.
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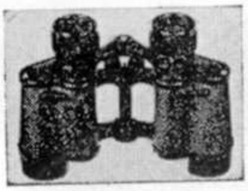

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